

ORLANDO Attractions

MAGAZINE



AttractionsMagazine.com

Spring 2013

Volume 6, Issue 2

Drinking (and eating) Around the World at Epcot



Charitable Village Aims to Give Kids The World

'Orlando Magic' The Area's Best Illusionist Shows

PLUS

Games, Cartoons,
Updates & More!

**Q&A with a
Top Theme Park
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New Dining and Fun
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**Top 10 Places for
Quick Dining at Disney**

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The Kir Royal and Grey Goose Citron Lemonade Slush from the France Pavilion are just two of the regional drinks offered at Epcot. Read about other popular offerings on page 32.



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Fun For Disney World Lines

by Kim Button



**Do you dread waiting in long lines every day on
your Disney vacation?**

Then you need the Fun For Disney World Lines app with stress-relieving, boredom-busting activities that are uniquely tailored to every attraction and show queue line within the Walt Disney World Resort's four theme parks!

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What's new on...

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THESE STORIES AND MORE...

In addition to the stories and photos in this magazine, check our website regularly for even more, plus many videos. Stay up-to-date with all the latest theme park and attraction news through our weekly video show, download our free iPhone/iPad app and sign up for our free e-mail newsletter.

TRUE LOVE AT DISNEY

Search "True Love week" on our website to watch the full ceremony Disney held on Valentine's Day. Watch as Disney's most popular princes and princesses join Mickey and Minnie for a performance on Cinderella Castle stage.

FASTPASS+ IN ACTION

Disney is rolling out their new MyMagic+ system, but the FastPass+ portion hasn't launched yet. We were able to film a guest testing the system that allows pre-booking of FastPass times and the ability to update their choices on touch screens in the park. Search Fastpass+ on our website to read all about MyMagic+ and see how it works.

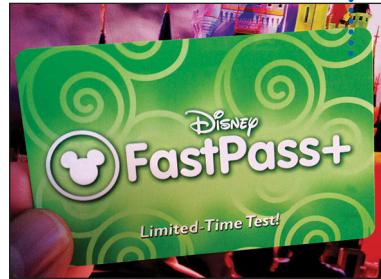


PHOTO BY NICOLE SISCARETTI

ATTRACTI0NS MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE

If you're interested in owning a mug just like the ones our hosts use on "Orlando Attractions Magazine - The Show", or you'd like to show your love of Orlando's attractions with a T-Shirt, visit our new Attractions store. In addition to mugs and T-shirts, you'll find bags, bumper stickers, cell phone cases and more at zazzle.com/attractions.



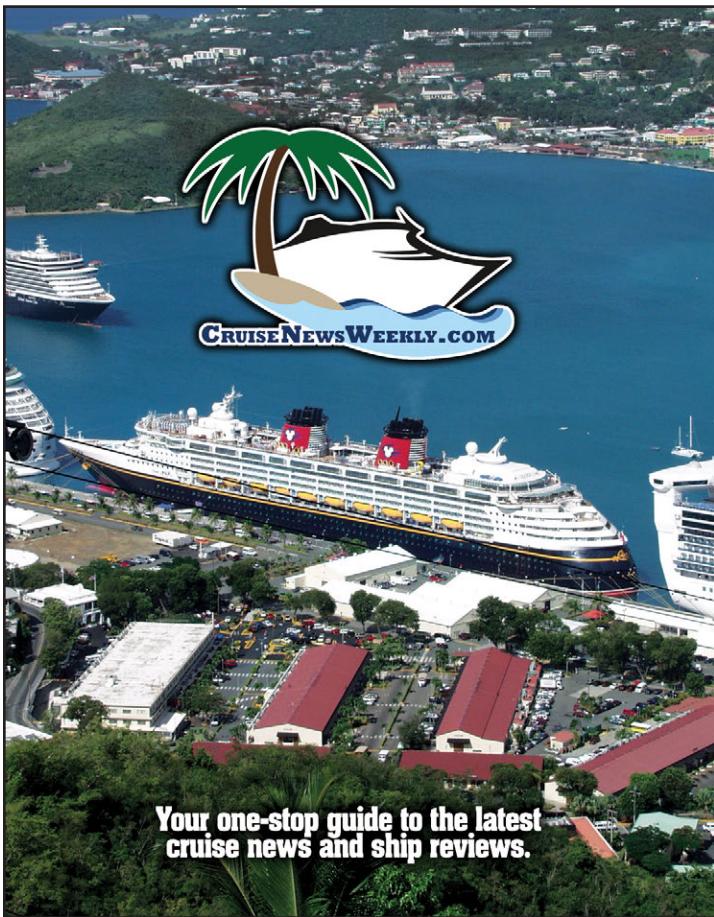
LIVE FROM THE PARKS



Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/attractions and our Facebook page at facebook.com/attractionsmagazine. We frequently post on-the-spot information, photos and short videos while we're inside Orlando's theme parks. You can also be notified of our latest videos if you subscribe to our YouTube channel at youtube.com/attractionsmagazine.

DISNEY FIREWORKS IN REVERSE

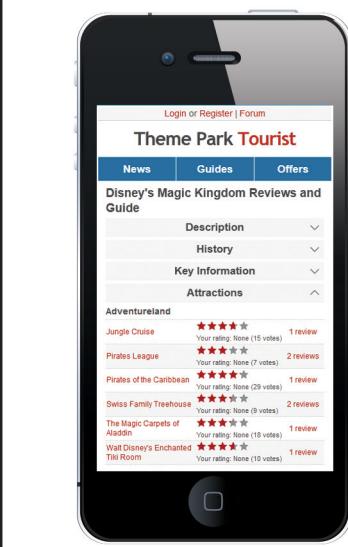
Ever wondered what Disney's fireworks would look like and sound like in reverse? Inspired by a popular YouTube video, we put together a look at the last half of Disney's Summer Nightastic Fireworks show backwards. Search "Disney Fireworks In Reverse" on our YouTube Channel to see Tinker Bell fly backwards into Cinderella Castle and pirates un-attack the castle. It's really cool and a bit creepy.



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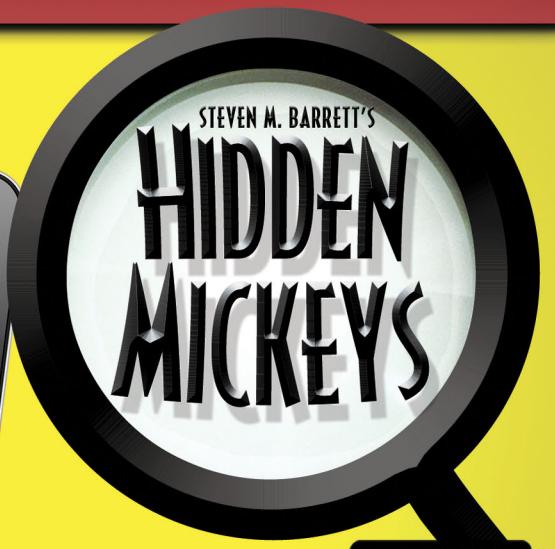
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FROM THE EDITOR



I hope you enjoy this issue of the magazine. If you haven't seen it lately, I encourage you to watch an episode of our weekly television show. It's a great companion to the magazine

and a fun way to stay informed between issues. If you're in Central Florida, you can find it on Bright House Cable TV, but if you're out of the area, as most of you are, you can watch through YouTube and iTunes - no matter where you are in the world. Just head to our website and look for the links. Hosts Banks Lee and JeniLynn Knopp bring you all the fun news and a bit of their opinions, along with our other location hosts. We also have a Hidden Mickey of the week brought to you by Steve Barrett, the author of the popular Hidden Mickeys book. We even give away a great attraction related prize each week.

Have Fun,
Matt Roseboom
Editor/Publisher

GREAT COMBINATION

I just wanted to compliment you on your show and magazine. I found your website through "All Ears" which I subscribe to via their newsletter. Man, am I glad!

I immediately ordered the Spring issue and a subscription to the upcoming issues. While I waited for my magazine, I marathon watched all your shows from this year - a lot of fun. My magazine came quickly. It is beautiful and my entire family has read it from cover to cover. We are avid Disney fans and love to do "other" stuff when we are in Orlando. Thanks for the lovely pictures. Your magazine is informative without being boring and the large, clear, crisp, colorful photography make it happy and appealing, even to children. My 11-year-old daughter took it to school. Thanks for all you do!

Dawn Hoagland
Hackettstown, N.J.

We're as happy as you are that you found us.



ALL THE WAY FROM WULFF CASTLE

Although it took three months to arrive, we have our magazine, and the happiest people are my kids, who could remember the attractions visited on our second trip to Orlando. We also went for the first time to other parks such as Legoland and Busch Gardens. We hope to return in two years and ride the new attractions advertised in your magazine.

Attached is a photo of my son Onias and daughter Fernanda reading the magazine. In the background of the photo is the Wulff Castle, now a museum located in the city of Viña del Mar, Chile.

Espinosa Leon Family
Santiago, Chile

I'm sorry it took so long to get your magazine but depending on when you subscribe, it may be up to three months until our next issue. Thanks for taking the photo. We love to see the far reaches of Orlando and the magazine.

MAKING WISHES COME TRUE

My youngest son, Shaun, 11, who was a Wish child at Give Kids The World (GKTW) in 2010 is literally immersed in all things Orlando. He knows when rides are going to close and open thanks to you guys. My two youngest guys can't wait to go on Despicable Me.

We're coming back to GKTW for my son Kevin, 15. GKTW is an unbelievable place for a Wish child and just as unbelievable for the whole family. We left there so happy. It is overflowing with

love. If you get a chance, please read Henri Landwirth's book, "A Gift Of Life". I am literally tearing up at what a man he is (and I am a retired NYC cop).

Kevin Carroll
Commack, N.Y.

I'm so sorry to hear about your sons' health issues. I hope they have a full recovery, but it's great to know places like Give Kids The World are there to help make precious memories. We're happy to help spread the word about the village starting on page 38.

AWESOME TRIP

You guys put together an amazing show every week and I look forward to it! I just wanted to let everyone know at Attractions Magazine that you helped me put my holiday together last year. For my 24th birthday, my best friend and I traveled all the way from Australia to take on every Disney park in the USA and more! We ended up visiting: Disneyland, California Adventure, Universal Studios, Knott's Berry Farm, Epcot, Magic Kingdom, Animal Kingdom, Disney's Hollywood Studios, Typhoon Lagoon, DisneyQuest and Blizzard Beach. We did all this in 18 days! If it wasn't for your amazing team, I would have been totally lost! You helped me with all the must do's, what to see and how to do it. I hope to come over again soon and do it all over again cause we missed out on the Fantasyland expansion, Test Track v2 and Big Thunder Mountain. Thank you, thank you, thank you! And also a massive shout out to Banks and JeniLynn all the way from Australia!

Terry Carroll
Gold Coast Australia

That's what I call a vacation! On behalf of all of us, we're glad we could help. We hope you return soon.

NEVER BEEN TO DISNEY

I have been watching your shows weekly without fail on YouTube. I really enjoyed your shows and it is the closest way I could ever get to see what

Disneyland is like. I have never had the chance to go on a holiday my entire life and it has been my dream to go to Disneyland with my husband. But we have financial issues as I am the only one working currently. Until now, I could only dream. Anyway, keep up the good work! I love you guys!

Zaleha Abdul Hamid
Singapore

We don't get too many letters from people who have never been to Disneyland or Disney World. We hope you can find a way to make the long trip soon. Please let us know your thoughts after you do.

STRESS RELIEVERS

We have been reading your magazine and watching your show since the beginning and thoroughly enjoy both. They keep us connected to Disney and the Florida attractions between visits. They are also a great stress reliever. Although we have enjoyed many of your hosts over time as well as the show, the new and improved show with JeniLynn and Banks is the best ever! They make a great team and are really fun to watch with just the right amount of bantering. The information and videos you provide are priceless to those who don't live in Florida yet still think and dream of our next vacation practically everyday.

Keep up the great work. Your efforts are greatly appreciated here in N.J. Please don't change a thing!

John and Karl Dylla
Hackettstown, N.J.

I think that's the first time our show and magazine have been called stress relievers, but I'm glad to hear it. Our goal is to let our readers and viewers escape to Orlando with us through our shows, videos, stories and photos.

NO MORE TRAM SPIELING

I see you frequently sit down for interviews with senior managers at Disney and am wondering if you ever thought to ask anyone about the new tram policy put into place several months ago. Being a Disney geek I often try to put myself into their shoes and understand

why they would do things from an operational standpoint, but this one baffles me. I don't see how stopping tram boarding and requiring guests to listen to a recorded safety spiel helps to fit their guidelines. It completely cuts down on tram dispatch time. I constantly see frustrated guests because they are not allowed to board a tram with many open rows. I'm fairly certain the reason this policy is now in place is to cut down on tram jumpers. However, didn't Disney just add doors to all their trams? Making guests who have "checked out" and left the real world listen to a safety spiel is comparable to making them read the safety card in the seat-back on their plane. Is it really going to help? Will a bilingual spiel deter them? In my opinion I think that's a no. Most tourists have left their reality and stress at home but didn't leave their brains. Stop making everyone suffer. Unfortunately this is the first impression Disney is going to make, and its also the last one you're going to get as you leave the park. I feel like I'm speaking for many when I believe this is adding a lot of unnecessary wait time. As for me, I've decided not to wait, I've started to walk.

Troy Johnson
Orlando, Fla.

I understand they present the information to keep guests safe, but is it all really necessary? Is it needed in two languages? Should the tram start moving as soon as the announcement starts or make guests wait until it's over? What do you think readers?

BIRTHDAY SNOW MONSTERS

January 19th was our youngest daughter Mya's 4th birthday and when asked what she would like for her birthday, she replied, "I want to go to Florida and have some snow and cake and candles." The reason she wanted to go to Florida is simple, this was where she spent her third birthday, so apparently this is where she must spend all future birthdays. Now unfortunately, she is unfamiliar with the concept of a recession. So how were we to tell her without crushing her birthday wishes?

We came up with the idea that some of the Disney characters were going to visit her this year as she was so kind and visited them on her previous birthday. This created another problem. Do we hire costumes? Make them? Will it fool her? Then our prayers were answered in the form of snow. Lots and lots of snow!

After the opening of presents, the blowing of candles and consumption of obscene amounts of birthday cake, a much needed nap was in order. So whilst Mya and myself were napping, my wife Maxine and our other children, Charlotte, Aaron and Paige, came up with the idea of bringing some Disney characters to life in the snow. Lots of hard work, bottles of spray paint, cold hands and a lot of cups of tea later, Mike Wazowski and Sully finally arrived to say happy birthday to Mya, who was over the moon about them.

So now Mya insists it is our turn to visit Orlando again next year. So see you next January

Matt Bovey
South Wales, U.K.

Wow! What a great job. It almost makes me wish we had snow here in Orlando, almost.





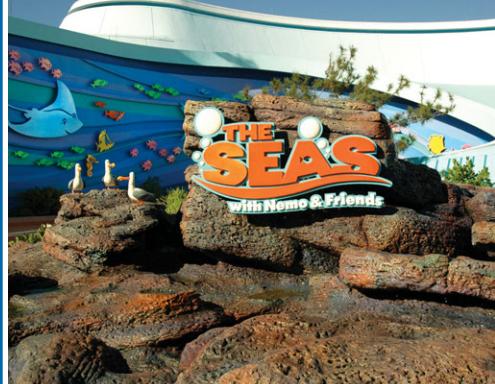
Before Nemo & Friends moved into The Seas at Epcot, the pavilion was known as The Living Seas. Although many of the large aquariums remain the same, how guests enter the pavilion has changed. When it opened in 1986, guests rode hydrolators "down" to Sea Base Alpha, then boarded a Seacab to get inside the pavilion. Since 2006 guests walk through a beach area and board clamobiles to ride The Seas with Nemo & Friends attraction to enter the pavilion of the same name.

You can find more photos from Epcot's past in the book "Epcot: The First Thirty Years" by Jeff Lange and Kevin Yee.

THEN ...



... AND NOW



PHOTOS BY JEFF LANGE

We asked our Facebook followers, "Besides the ones already in Central Florida, what fictional characters would you like to meet?"

Robert Migliaccio Forrest Gump, why wouldn't you want to meet the man who has done basically everything.

Brandi Dickenson Elmore I'm an '80s kid with a little girl, but I would love to see Strawberry Shortcake or the My Little Ponies.

Dallas Thompson I would like to see Greg Heffley and the rest of the characters from the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series because it is my favorite book series and I would really love to meet them and get their autograph!

Braedon Godin I would love to actually be able to meet the Hitchhiking Ghosts. I think that would be an awesome thing to do because they are some of the most popular characters in Disney.

Dianne Christie Fairy tale characters... Humpty Dumpty, Old King Cole, Jack, Three Little Pigs, Gingerbread Man ... because they are classics and so many kids are missing out on them because of

computer games instead of books.

George Hart I would love to meet the characters from Hoodwinked - it's such an awesome movie!

Rick Freeze Something the U.S. is missing is any kind of Doctor Who Experience. I would love to see The Doctor and a TARDIS in FL. Think of how well the Imagineers could make a TARDIS larger on the inside than on the outside.

Matt Dunfield Dreamfinder

Sandra Givens The Blue Fairy. My son would be over the moon to see her.

Chad Slone I would definitely go back to my childhood and would love to see all of the characters from He Man and the Masters of the Universe! I loved it as a kid and would make a trip to Orlando just for that!

John Burton The Smurfs -

Smurfland? or Hanna Barbara Bay (with Hong Kong Phooey & cast of Wacky Races), or Warner Brothers

Village (with Bugs, Daffy and Marvin the Martian). All of these characters were so great and taught some valuable life lessons (whilst having fun). Also it would be great to complete my childhood revisit every time I visit Orlando

Hope Siemiaczko Newhouse Doc McStuffins because she's my nephew Levi's favorite.

Tyler Mullins Any character from Family Guy or South Park, no matter how offensive the shows, would make for a great profile picture.

James Galliford I love the fantasy world and I think a lot could be done with The Lord of the Rings franchises. Game of Thrones is my first choice but too adult for theme parkdom

Toni Brayne Tweetie pie.

Everyone loves Tweetie pie!!!!

Loa Shelley Disney: Princess

Eilonwy - because she's my favorite forgotten Disney princess.

Ray - because he's so adorable and cute - even as a ol' Cajun firefly. Aslan - because he's awesome and strong.

Non- Disney: Lyra from The Golden Compass - I'd love to discuss the Alethometer with her, Dr. Who (current Doctor) because, he's The Doctor and Doctors are cool, and Kaylee from Firefly - she's a lot like me.

Julie Young Iron Man and Thor would be fab at IOA - for pure drool factor!!! At Disney, I'd love to see Louis from Princess and the Frog as I think he'd give great cuddles!!!! I'm coming in October from the U.K. if you can sort it. Cheers!!!!

Guillaume Lebacq I'd like to meet the characters of Monster Blood or The Haunted Mask of "Goosebumps" (the book series and TV show) by RL Stine, which celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2012.

WRITE TO US!

"Like" Orlando Attractions Magazine on Facebook to keep up with all the latest news, and comment and answer next issue's Facebook question.

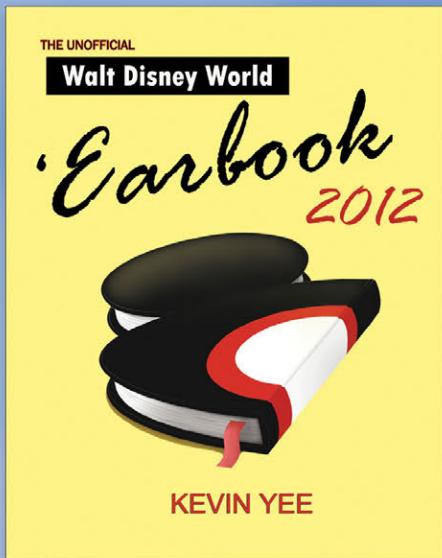
We want your letters and photos! If you have any **comments** about the magazine, **questions** about traveling to Orlando or fun stories or photos to share, simply e-mail us directly at info@attractionsmagazine.com.



INDEPENDENT DISNEY BOOKS

BY AUTHOR KEVIN YEE

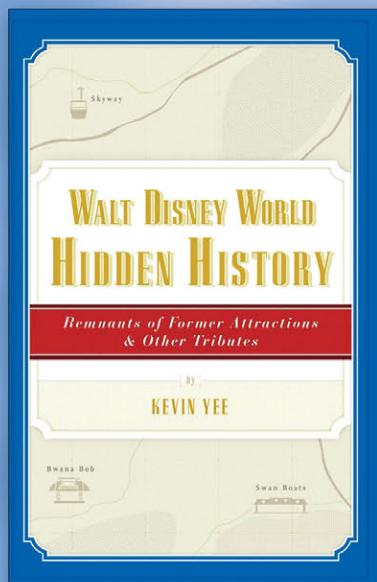
Enjoy trivia, insider tributes, and historical facts about Walt Disney World? Kevin Yee has spent twenty years working in, researching, and publishing about Disney theme parks.



NEW!

Re-live the changes to Walt Disney World in 2012 via hundreds of fan photos. All rides, shows, shops, and restaurants that were added or removed are celebrated here. It's all here, from removals like Snow White, the original Test Track, and original Dumbo, to additions like Storybook Circus, Little Mermaid, Art of Animation Resort, revised Test Track, and dozens more new offerings.

"Walt Disney World Hidden History" explores the many hidden tributes and references to bygone attractions that populate the theme parks. The individual items discussed are all things you can actually point to at the parks, so the book provides a kind of walking tour of the parks that yields a glimpse of the deeper history percolating below the surface.



Kevin Yee is also the author of three books about Disneyland, the most recent being *Mouse Trap*, an intimate recounting of what a decade as a front-line worker at Disneyland looks like.

*All books are available from Amazon.com

Vacation Planner



By Anthony Armenia

INTERNATIONAL FLOWER & GARDEN FESTIVAL

Location: Epcot

Dates: March 6 through May 19

Cost: Included with theme park admission.

See some of your favorite Disney characters throughout the park as topiaries, plus hundreds of other themed topiaries at this year's festival. There's also live music by your favorite artists of the '60s and '70s in the Flower Power concert series at the American Gardens Theater. Guests can also learn from HGTV stars and Epcot gardening specialists in educational programs and cooking stations. New this year is the Land of Oz play area.



PHOTO BY QUINN ROSEBOM

VIVA LA MUSICA

Location: Busch Gardens Tampa and SeaWorld Orlando

Dates: Busch Gardens: Every Sunday from April 14 through May 5; SeaWorld: Every Saturday from April 13 through May 4

Cost: Included with theme park admission. Join the fiesta featuring live Latin music performed by award-winning artists, savory Latin cuisine and authentic arts and crafts.



BACKSTAGE TO ONSTAGE AT UNIVERSAL ORLANDO

Location: Orange County Regional History Center

Dates: Now through Jan. 5, 2014

Cost: \$9 for adults; \$7 for seniors, students and military with I.D.; \$6 for children 5-12

Go behind the scenes of the process that goes into bringing Universal Orlando Resort's annual events such as Halloween Horror Nights, Mardi Gras and Macy's Holiday Parade to life each year. The exhibition changes with each season. Right now it is showcasing Mardi Gras, followed by summer events then Halloween Horror Nights and Holidays at Universal.



We've chosen our favorite upcoming events to spotlight. You don't want to miss them on your next trip to Orlando.

All events and dates are subject to change. Please check with the proper organization before attending.

Check AttractionsMagazine.com for up-to-date happenings in the Orlando area.

STAR WARS WEEKENDS

Location: Disney's Hollywood Studios

Dates: Every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from May 17 through June 9

Cost: Included with theme park admission.

Join the celebration of the Star Wars franchise featuring a parade, celebrity meet and greets, memorabilia, character meet and greets and presentations. Don't forget the popular and fun Hyperspace Hoopla featuring your favorite Star Wars characters held each night of the event.

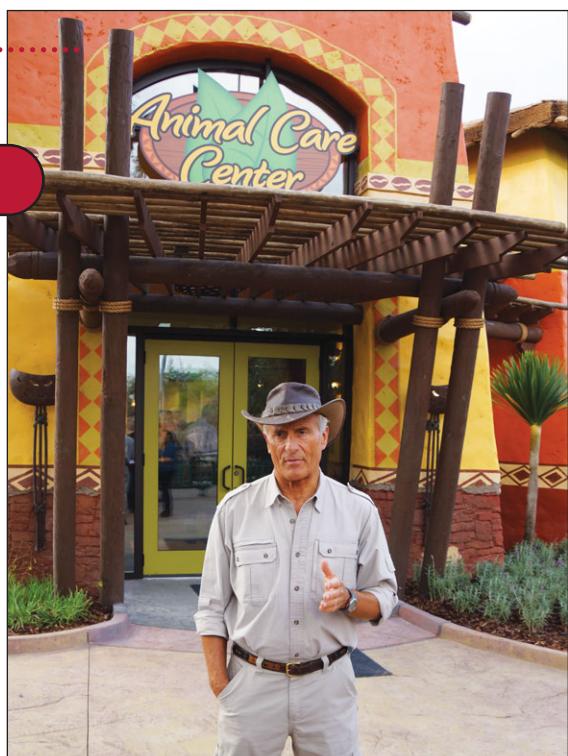


JACK HANNA

Location: Busch Gardens Tampa

Dates: Saturday and Sunday, May 18 and 19

Cost: Included with theme park admission. Join the famous "Jungle Jack" Hanna for two days of animal shows, autograph signings and meet and greets. There is also an exclusive Family Fun Sleepover and Serengeti Night Safari with Jungle Jack himself for an additional cost.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Walt Disney World Resort
www.disneyworld.com
(407) 939-6244

SeaWorld Orlando
www.seaworld.com/orlando
(800) 327-2424

Busch Gardens Tampa
www.buschgardens.com/bgt
(888) 800-5447

Orange County Regional History Center
www.thehistorycenter.org
(407) 836-8500

STATUS: OPENING SOON

Rapunzel Themed Bathrooms

LOCATION: MAGIC KINGDOM

Get ready to step into the world of "Tangled" with a highly themed area featuring floating lanterns, Rapunzel's tower and many more details. Disney has said it's just a restroom area but rumors say there will be a meet and greet and a charging station. This area is also rumored to have been built so an interactive queue can be added to Peter Pan's Flight. The Tangled area should be open as you read this, but at press time they were still putting the finishing touches on it.



PHOTO BY DANIEL ANDERSSON

STATUS: OPENING SOON

Antarctica: Empire of the Penguin

LOCATION: SEAWORLD ORLANDO

Construction is close to completion on Antarctica: Empire of the Penguin. The brand new area is set to open on May 24. The realm has huge icebergs including one shaped like the penguins that will be the stars of the new area. The ride's storyline follows a young penguin named Puck and his adventures throughout Antarctica. For the first time in any theme park, this motion-based simulator will be completely trackless and guests will choose their level of intensity.



STATUS: UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Grand Floridian DVC Construction Taking Shape

LOCATION: DISNEY'S GRAND FLORIDIAN RESORT AND SPA

The buildings that will eventually house the Disney Vacation Club wings of the Grand Floridian Resort and Spa are finally coming together and seem to resemble the main Grand Floridian buildings. Look for an opening this fall.



STATUS: LEAVING

No More Body Slams or Pile Drivers

LOCATION: UNIVERSAL STUDIOS FLORIDA

TNA Wrestling has announced they will be leaving Universal Orlando to film their television shows at different cities around the U.S. TNA has filmed the majority of their Impact Wrestling television shows and pay-per-view events for the past eight years in Soundstage 21, just behind the Hollywood Rip Ride Rockit Roller Coaster. There's no word what will move into the soundstage.

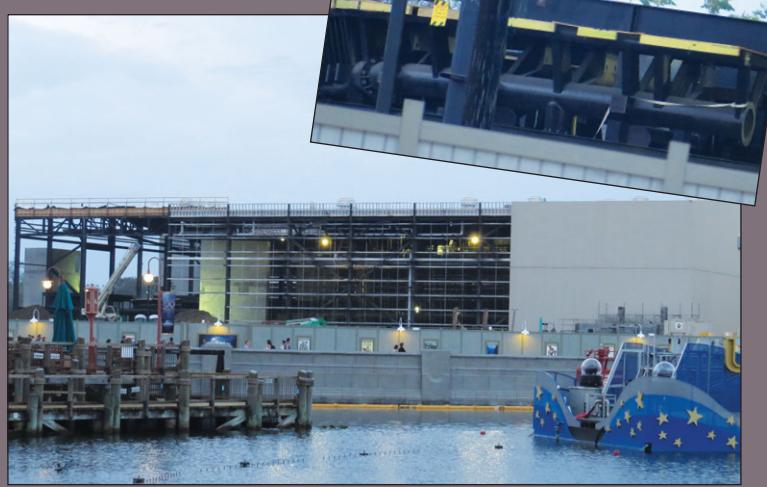


STATUS: TRACK INSTALLED

Grignotts Bank Coaster and Wizarding World update

LOCATION: UNIVERSAL ORLANDO RESORT

Construction is going ahead full-force with the buildings for the rumored train station and more going up in the former Jaws area. Track has also been installed in the rumored Grignotts Bank roller coaster building. Land has also been cleared by the current Wizard World of Harry Potter and is rumored to be a Hogwarts Express train attraction that will link the two parks.



STATUS: OPENING SOON

Welcome to Moe's Tavern

LOCATION: UNIVERSAL STUDIOS FLORIDA

Construction is close to completion on the former International Food Festival food court eatery next to Kwik-E-Mart. Rumors say The Simpsons will be expanded to the area with a Krusty Burger, Moe's Tavern and more.



Work in Progress ?

STATUS: ROCKIN' SOON

Madagascar Live!

Operation: Vacation

LOCATION: BUSCH GARDENS TAMPA

"Madagascar Live! Operation: Vacation," an original live musical show featuring the characters from DreamWorks Animation's Madagascar franchise is coming. The 20-minute musical follows the animal gang during a vacation adventure. The show will feature rock/pop music performed by a live band

and include both classic and original songs. It will debut this summer (also at SeaWorld San Diego).



STATUS: BOWLING SOON

Kings – Lanes, Lounge, Sports

LOCATION: INTERNATIONAL DRIVE

A new place for tourists and locals to bowl is coming this spring. But don't call it a bowling alley, because, like Splitsville at Downtown Disney, Kings offers bowling, dining, drinking and more in an upscale atmosphere.

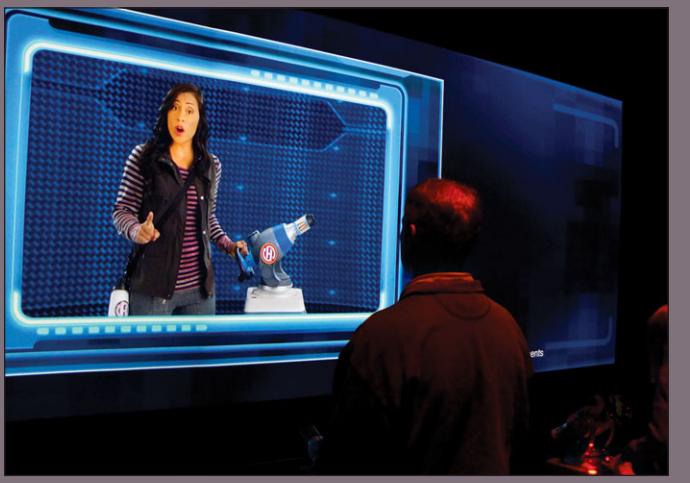


STATUS: RE-OPENED

Habit Heroes Has a New Storyline

LOCATION: EPCOT

The Habit Heroes attraction that opened about a year ago, and then quickly closed after controversy over its portrayal of overweight kids, has reopened with a whole new storyline, characters and games. The walkthrough attraction in Innoventions East still features the same rooms and types of games as the short-lived version, but the gameplay has been changed and the entrance and exit have been swapped.



STATUS: NOW SERVING

Ooh Là Là and Yummy

LOCATION: EPCOT

The Boulangerie Patisserie in the France Pavilion has moved into a larger space and has been renamed the Les Halles Boulangerie and Patisserie, serving soups, salads, sandwiches, coffees, breads, desserts and more. The bakery and dining room are located in the back of the store at the exit to the Impressions de France theater. The former bakery area is now closed and is being converted into an ice cream shop. This will be welcomed once the Fountain View ice cream shop closes to be converted into a Starbucks later this year.



STATUS: NOW OPEN

I Think We Can

LOCATION: EPCOT

IBM has changed up one of their exhibits in Innoventions West. The former IBM Smarter Planet and Runtime is gone and in its place is a theater and large touchscreen displays telling about IBM's past 100 years. The goal of the exhibit is to help guests think about how they can improve the way they live and work. This is the same Think exhibit that was on display in New York City.



STATUS: SWASHBUCKLING SOON

Ahoy, Maties, It's a New Game

LOCATION: MAGIC KINGDOM

"A Pirate's Adventure: Treasures of the Seven Seas" is coming this spring. This new interactive game will be played at various locations in the Adventureland section of the park and will have guests use a pirate map and magic talisman to complete five different pirate raids.



PHOTO BY DANIEL ANDERSON

STATUS: COMING SOON

Become a Wilderness Explorer

LOCATION: DISNEY'S ANIMAL KINGDOM

A new interactive adventure game entitled *Wilderness Explorers* is coming this spring. The game will be based around the film "Up" and will have guests complete missions to earn badges like Russell did in the film. When this new game opens, guests will be able to become *Wilderness Explorers* by going around the park using field guides, completing challenges and earning badges along the way.



STATUS: NOW MEETING AND GREETING

It's Franklin and Friends

LOCATION:

SEAWORLD ORLANDO

Franklin and Friends recently joined the SeaWorld family. This new partnership brings Franklin himself to the park plus joint Franklin television specials, books and other merchandise.



Work in Progress ?

STATUS: OPENING SOON

Watch the Skies!

LOCATION: KENNEDY SPACE CENTER

VISITOR COMPLEX

Angry Birds Space Encounter is set to open in March. After entering the Angry Birds wormhole, guests have the opportunity to experience any of the seven interactive exhibits. They include Create Your Own Angry Bird, where guests can make a customized Angry Bird on a computer screen; Angry Birds sliding puzzle, where visitors slide pieces of a puzzle to reveal one of the Angry Bird characters; and the popular Slingshot target game, where you launch small Angry Birds at targets.



STATUS: ROLLING OUT THIS YEAR

MyMagic+, Fastpass+ and MagicBands Oh My!

LOCATION: WALT DISNEY

WORLD RESORT

Disney is getting ready to officially launch the next generation of their FastPass system and other enhancements they're calling MyMagic+. The new system is said to give guests a more personalized vacation through the use of new wristbands called MagicBands. Disney resort guests will be able to enter the parks without turnstiles and pay for their purchases with touch to pay technology. This is currently being done through RFID (Radio-Frequency Identification) chips embedded into their "Key to the World" cards, which also serve as their room keys. Within the next few months, Disney will be foregoing the cards for the MagicBands. These wristbands will serve as resort guests' room keys, park tickets and FastPass access, which they can book in advance, and more.



STATUS: ONGOING THROUGH 2013

Limited Time Magic Has Begun

LOCATION: WALT DISNEY WORLD AND

DISNEYLAND

RESORTS

From meet and greets with "Long Lost Friends" to a special dance party to celebrate the New Year, Disney is offering guests various short events as part of their new campaign entitled, "Limited Time Magic". Some future offerings include a week long Fourth of July celebration in the Magic Kingdom and a special Friday the 13th villains party on Friday, Sept. 13, 2013.



STATUS: NOW OPEN

Hear Ye, Hear Ye: Welcome to the Chocolate Kingdom

LOCATION: NEAR OLD TOWN ON U.S. 192

Go behind the scenes of the chocolate making process at Chocolate Kingdom. An interactive tour shows how chocolate goes from the bean into the chocolate bar. Of course, there's lots of chocolate items for sale in the gift shop.



STATUS: TRANSFORMATION ALMOST COMPLETE

Be Prepared: Transformers Are Coming

LOCATION: UNIVERSAL STUDIOS FLORIDA

Transformers: The Ride - 3D is coming this summer. Construction on the exterior is in full-force with many new pipes, paintings and other themed items being added around the building. There is also a new life-size cut-out of Bumble Bee featured on a construction wall. The ride will be an immersive, next generation thrill ride fusing HD 3D media and flight simulation technology featuring all your favorite Autobots and Decepticons along the way.



STATUS: NOW SHOWING

Welcome Sofia the First and Doc McStuffins

LOCATION: DISNEY'S HOLLYWOOD STUDIOS

Disney Junior Live on Stage! recently reopened from its refurbishment, which added Sofia the First and Doc McStuffins characters. They will join Jake and the Neverland Pirates and Mickey Mouse Clubhouse characters in the show.



STATUS: NOW SERVING

New Restaurant in the France Pavilion

LOCATION: EPCOT

The newest restaurant in World Showcase, Monsieur Paul, is now open. The restaurant is located in the France Pavilion and replaces Le Bistro de Paris. It aims to provide guests with a refined, yet casual French dining experience presented by Chef Jerome Bocuse. Chef Jerome is also the owner and operator of two other properties at Epcot: Les Chefs de France and Boulangerie Patisserie Les Halles.



Photo Finds

Orlando is always filled with fun things to see and our photographers are there to capture it all.

Visit our Website for videos and a gallery of more photos.
AttractionsMagazine.com



PHOTO BY DANIEL ANDERSON



PHOTO BY DANIEL ANDERSON



PHOTO BY JACKIE ROSEBOOM

Baltimore Ravens Quarterback Joe Flacco said he was **“going to Disney World”** after being named the **Super Bowl MVP**, and that’s what he did the next day. He quickly rode through the Magic Kingdom with Mickey Mouse and some other Disney characters following along.



One of the most popular events so far for Disney’s **Limited Time Magic** promotion was **Long Lost Friends Week**. During the last week of January, guests could meet characters from Disney’s **Robin Hood**, **Three Little Pigs**, **Duck Tales**, **Pinocchio** and **Clarabell Cow with Horace Horsecollar**.



Star Wars: Where Science Meets Imagination is a traveling exhibit that can be seen at the **Orlando Science Center** through April 7. The showcase has many interactive displays plus original props and costumes from the movies. Star Wars fans won't want to miss it.



In mid-January, guests at **Disney's Hollywood Studios** were able to meet some characters who don't usually pose for photos. **Chip, Lumière and Cogsworth** from "Beauty and The Beast - Live on Stage" were **available for photos** for a few days while the show was not performing.



As part of Disney's **Limited Time Magic** promotion, Disney Weddings held a special meet-up for couples in which they recommitted their love for each other in front of Cinderella Castle at the Magic Kingdom on **Valentine's Day**. Many of the Disney **princes and their princesses** performed on stage during the ceremony.



PHOTO BY NICOLE SISCHETTI

THE FLORIDA MALL VS. THE MALL AT MILLENIA

UPSCALE DINING



THE FLORIDA MALL: With fairly typical food court offerings for casual dining, there are only a select few upscale dining options such as Buca di Beppo or California Pizza Kitchen.



THE MALL AT MILLENIA (WINNER): With options ranging from the upscale Italian fare at Brio Tuscan Grille to the American cuisine at The Capital Grille, there are many options for everyone to enjoy.

CASUAL DINING



THE FLORIDA MALL: From Subway to Taco Bell, there are many casual dining options for lunch or even a quick-dinner.



THE MALL AT MILLENIA (WINNER): From Mexican fare at Chipotle to Chick-Fil-A, there is something for everyone to enjoy for a casual dining experience.

LOOK & FEEL



THE FLORIDA MALL (WINNER): It's Orlando's largest shopping mall, and they have a small outdoor shopping area along with the usual indoor stores.



THE MALL AT MILLENIA: It's more upscale and features a second floor, but it's smaller and doesn't have the relaxed feel The Florida Mall has.

PARKING & AMENITIES



THE FLORIDA MALL (WINNER): They offer more than 9,220 parking spaces, valet parking, complimentary wheelchairs, electronic car charging stations and more.



THE MALL AT MILLENIA: They offer many amenities including a full-service concierge, valet parking, a U.S. Post Office and more.

STORES & PRICES



THE FLORIDA MALL (WINNER): They have a wide-variety of stores such as H&M, Hot Topic, Gap, Disney Store plus department stores like Sears and Saks Fifth Avenue.



THE MALL AT MILLENIA: The Mall at Millenia offers more pricy stores such as Abercrombie, Hollister, Urban Outfitters, Neiman Marcus and more.

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Our 8,000 square foot Orlando store is **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**
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Designer Cindy White talks about creating theme park favorites (and her secret Epcot wedding)

The next time you are fortunate enough to make a visit to an Orlando theme park, try to take just a moment away from that next attraction to rest those weary feet, stop, look around and really savor the atmosphere. The other guests, the employees and the music are all around you, creating those wonderful moments of fantasy and escapism. Look a little deeper at the smallest design on a costume, the detail on a building or a festival decoration. They are as important as the giant parade float that passes you by in a fanfare of song and dance. But who are the people that create and imagine these fairy-tale concepts that make our experiences so magical?

Cindy White graduated in 1980 from University of South Florida with a BA in theatre design and an art history degree and was fortunate to graduate straight into a dream job with Walt Disney World Imagineering as a staff designer, rising to the role of Walt Disney Creative Entertainment Art Director. In 1995 she took the opportunity to widen her portfolio and left Disney to set up her own design studio.

How would you describe your profession?

My job allows me to be the ultimate design flip flopper, changing

hats to fit whatever it is the assignment calls for. Sometimes I am a traditional set designer, other times an attractions-oriented Imagineer-type, sometimes a conceptual illustrator, a parade designer, costume designer, art director, etc.

How did you manage to graduate straight into that dream job?

Maybe the key to defining what I do is in how I trained. I drew constantly (that can't be emphasized enough) from early childhood through college. Continuously drawing and researching prepares you to explore every assignment from the point of view of some sort of experience, even if it was just learning about a time in history, a particular artist, or the look and style of a pop culture craze. I majored in theatre design at the University of South Florida and was hired at WED (Walter Elias Disney AKA Imagineering) at age 21. I like to tell people I went to grad school by peering over the cubicle walls of WED Florida at the work of my older and more experienced fellow designers. I was at WED Florida from 1980 until 1984, when Michael Eisner restructured much of the design services at Disney. I went over to join the newly formed Creative Entertainment division headed by Ron Logan and stayed

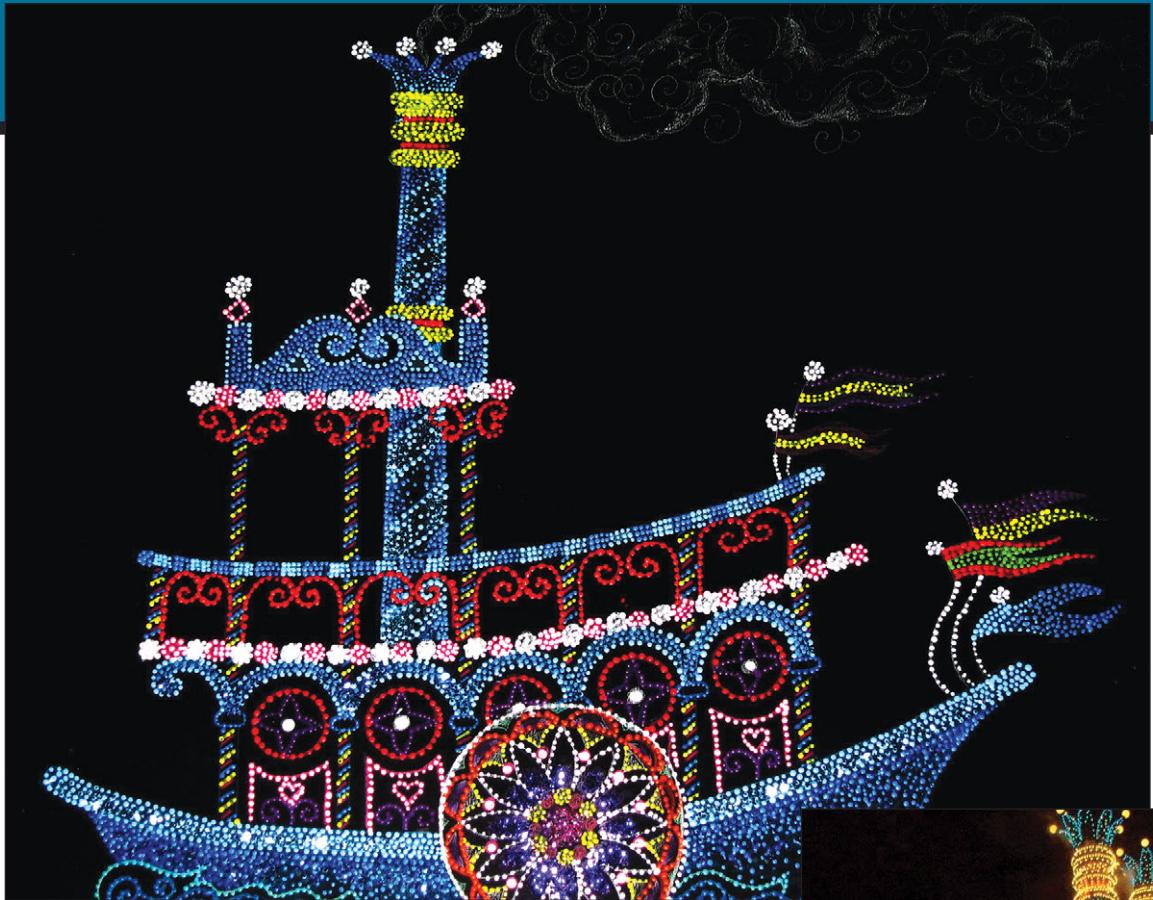


Cindy White

there until I left to start my own company in 1995.

You must have worked on some very interesting/exciting projects. What were your favorites?

So many fun projects over 30 years, it is hard to answer that. It seems cliché, but I can honestly say that what I am working on at the moment is the most fun, because it is a problem yet unsolved, like opening up the New York Times Crossword Puzzle on Sunday. Last Sunday's puzzle was fun, but it's been solved. If I had to name a few extra fun projects, I'd say the Move It, Shake It parade or the Santa Clause float at Walt Disney World, Dreamlights Electrical Parade at Tokyo Disneyland, the new Sesame Place Parade, and maybe One Man's



Cindy White's acrylic rendering for the riverboat unit featured in the finale of Tokyo Disneyland's Dreamlights Electrical Parade, and the actual unit, below.

Dream at Tokyo Disneyland. I left out about 40 other "my most favorite show". That's not a fair question

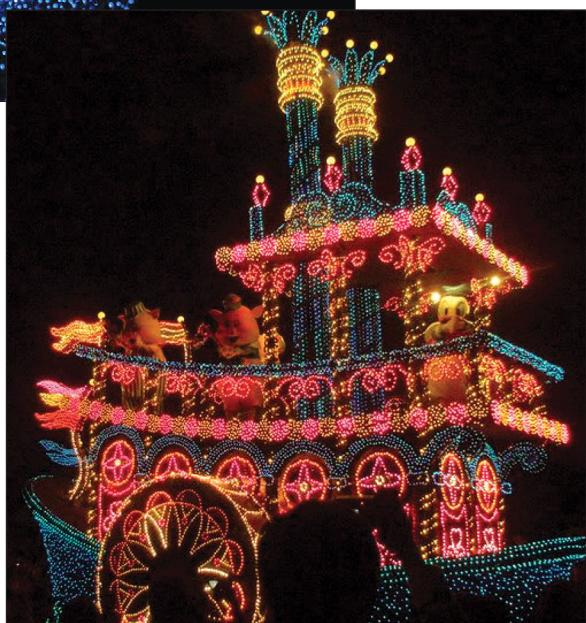
How difficult is it to hand over what you conceive and design to others to build?

Not at all. As a designer, that's the only way I work. That's like asking if the architect is unhappy he or she has to have construction workers fabricate his or her skyscraper! You do not want to see me weld. It is not pretty.

Does it always go according to plan?

No, thank goodness. Some of the best things happen when you make changes that at first seem like they are for budget or time, but in the end you get a cleaner looking, tighter show product. While working on the Dreamlights parade at Tokyo Disneyland, the lighting designer, Brain Gale, and I often thought to begin with the most intensely lush galaxy of lights on many units.

Later, when looking for opportunities to save on power and cutting lights here and there, we were often reminded of the role that dark space plays in so many of the prettiest electrical parade units. Without a little darkness to contrast with, some of the nicest lighting effects get lost in the mix. Of course, sometimes things don't work, things break or get cut and you wish it was otherwise, but that is the process for everything, isn't it? When we were opening Epcot Center and dedicating the big oval fountain in Communicore, there was an elaborate ceremony planned involving the pouring of waters brought in from all the participating countries in World Showcase. When we started to open these carefully shipped containers of water from various rivers, seas and famous places around the globe, much of it had



been stored for a while in the Florida heat and had started to grow all sorts of not so TV-worthy looking globs and algae and had turned green and brown. We ended up having to dump most of it and then filling these fancy ewers from the spigot right before show time. I hope it wasn't a jinx, but maybe that was why Communicore had such a hard time finding an audience.



A rendering for Dreamlights finale Airship unit and the finished float, left.



Where do you get your inspiration from?

Everywhere – music, books, literature, travel, conversation, pop culture, nature, dreams. Working on a Disney project gives me the chance to explore every aspect of the story and the artwork, possibly even researching the sources that inspired the original animators who created the film or the real places that the theme park imagineers researched when designing the theme park. Theme park design can be very com-

plex. Unlike designing an original piece of art, you already have some parameters right in front of you. So you need to be riffing with the theme until the ideas start popping out. But even before I left school, the parks and stories can inspire you and plant seeds. I was fortunate to visit both Disneyland in the early '70s and Magic Kingdom when it opened. We spent our time at the Magic Kingdom contrasting and comparing it with the original, looking at the differences and finding the

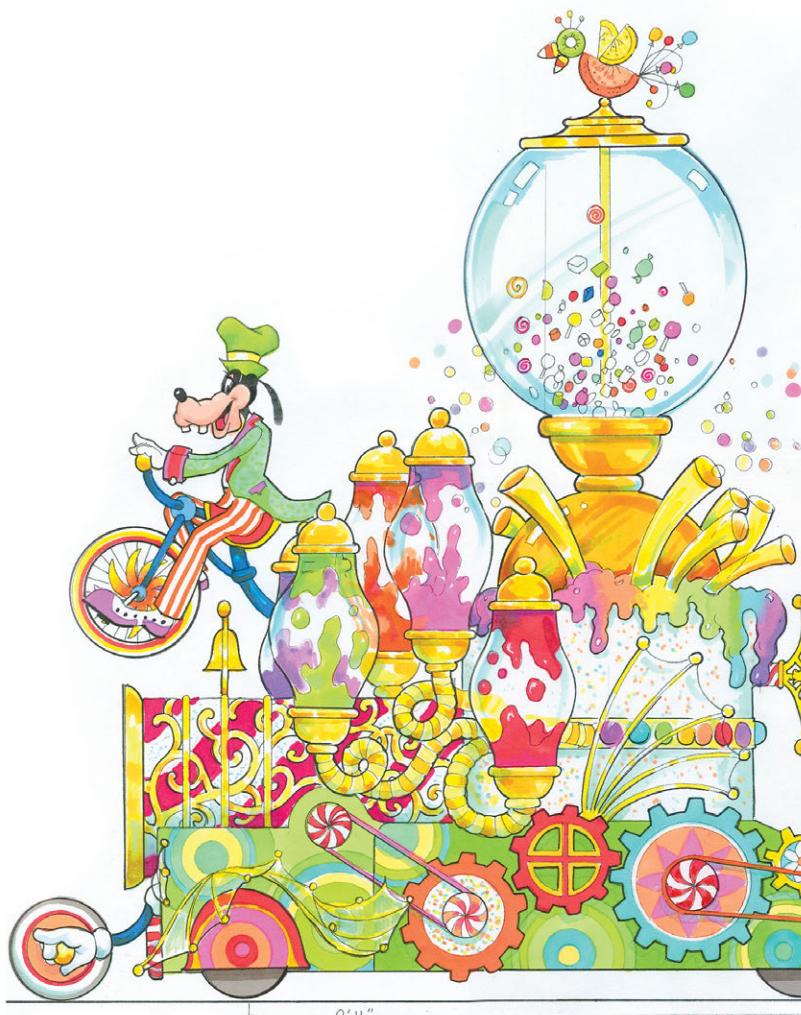
new bits. It is now really interesting to see the design and creation of a whole new Fantasyland that is so different yet in many ways still true to the original.

What projects are you working on at the present?

I sign an NDA (non-disclosure agreement) for almost everything I do. When you are often the first person people talk to with a new idea or concept, and they need an illustration or the design fleshed out, they need assurance that you will keep their dream discreet, as it is a competitive industry. I never talk about what I am working on via Facebook, and I have not updated my LinkedIn status in over a year for the same reason. I'm also really old school in that I just personally am not comfortable tooting my own horn or talking up my work. That being said, I am working on an aerial view conceptual rendering for a theme park and also on three set designs for theatrical productions here in Orlando. That's about all the detail I can give.

You must have worked with some interesting people?

Yes, interesting but mostly talented, dedicated, hard working and enthusiastic people who know how lucky we are to be working in such a happy industry. I had the opportunity to work with the best directors and creators in the live entertainment business. Larry Billman, Forrest Bahruth, Gary Paben, Jay Smith ... I am leaving out too many names but if you know these folks, you will know how easy it was to have enchanting assignments. Maybe I have been on the right projects or it just speaks for themed entertainment in general, but it seems to be a mostly "diva-free" world, at least that is how I see it. I



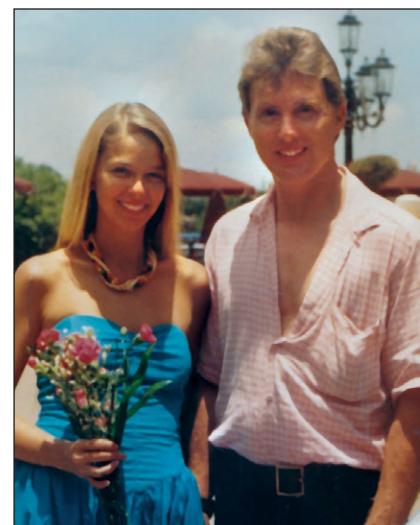
Marker and gouache rendering for Goofy's Candy Factory float, currently in use at Walt Disney World and the actual float, above.

often hear the opposite from people in film and TV, but the themed entertainment world just seems charmed to me.

Someone tells me that you might have got married in World Showcase?

Gosh! Well it was 1986 and whilst I had worked on the opening and design of Epcot, and my husband was a musician in one of the clubs, we thought it would be fun to get married on the pergola in the garden of the United Kingdom in World Showcase. Now this was before Disney had really looked into the wedding market and we asked if we could get married and they said they didn't really do that, so no. But

that was not going to stop us rebels. I was fortunate as my father was credentialed as a clergyman, and our friends and family were up for a challenge. World Showcase is not really open till later in the morning so it's very quiet first thing. After some planning, we all got together outside the park, wearing tourist attire so as not to draw attention to ourselves, and our staff passes allowed us to bring in some guests each. We got through the turnstiles and headed to the U.K. We jumped up onto the pergola and my father conducted the wedding. Just as we were finishing, a security guard got suspicious, heading over to this strange scene of a happy, weepy,



hugging family group and a girl with a big bouquet firmly planted into the garden area. Now that is a magical memory!

Quick service restaurants in Walt Disney World's theme parks

By "SKIPPER" BEN REBSTOCK

"Where do you want to eat?" It's a question that gets asked almost as frequently at Walt Disney World as "What time is the 3 o'clock parade?". But, one thing that Disney World is far from short on are options to fill your tummy. So here are my Top 10 choices for quick, counter service meals at the Disney parks.

10.....

ABC Commissary Disney's Hollywood Studios

It's one of the most overlooked counter service restaurants. The ABC Commissary has a very interesting menu for those looking for something different than standard park fare. Hotdogs are replaced by exotic salads, and if you want a ham-burger, their signature burger features fried shrimp skewered above the bun. The ABC Commissary is very spacious, making this a great place for large groups and families to spread out.

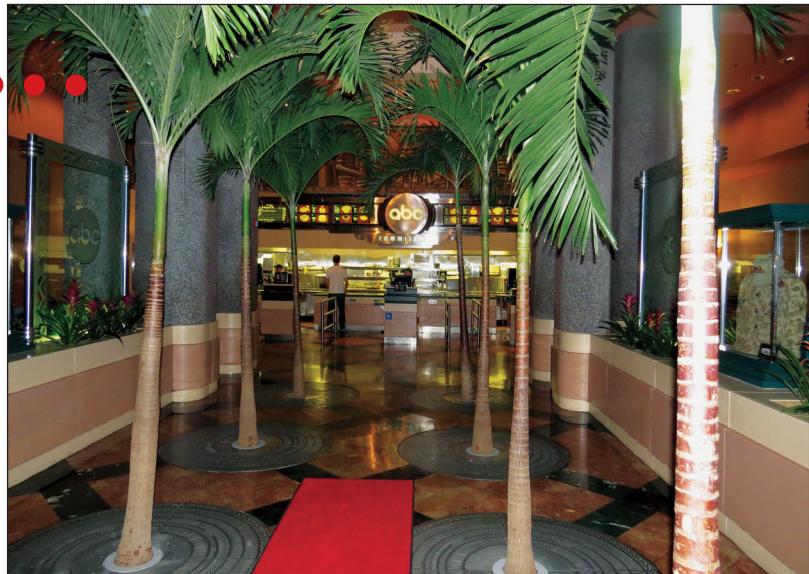


PHOTO BY ANTHONY ARMINIA

.....9

Columbia Harbour House Magic Kingdom

Tucked in a quiet corner of Liberty Square sits the Columbia Harbor House. Usually the least busy of all of Magic Kingdom counter service offerings, the Harbour House provides plenty of space, short lines and great food. Chicken and fish are items of the day, and you'll know when they are serving by the loud ringing of a bell by the door greeter. Be sure to go upstairs, where you can sit above the walkway that separates Liberty Square from Fantasyland. You'll have one of the best views in all of the park.



8

La Cantina de San Angel Epcot

If you are looking for a place to dine with a view, it does not get much better than La Cantina de San Angel. This relative newcomer to the Epcot dining landscape was built on the banks of World Showcase Lagoon. Grab a seat along the rail and enjoy your street tacos and nachos while taking in all that World Showcase has to offer. And if you are lucky, you might be able to grab a table for prime viewing of the IllumiNations nighttime lagoon show.

7

Sunset Ranch Market

Disney's Hollywood Studios

So, do you have one of those families where everyone wants to eat something different? Someone wants pizza, someone wants a hot dog, and, for some strange reason, someone wants a turkey leg? Well, the many outdoor dining options collectively known as Sunset Ranch Market at the end of Sunset Boulevard has you covered. Besides the regular theme park offerings, you can also find some creative options, such as chicken and spareribs, hot Italian deli sandwiches and, my new favorite offering, a hot dog topped with barbecued pork and coleslaw. Just remember, ride the Tower of Terror before eating!



6

Yak & Yeti Local Foods Cafe Disney's Animal Kingdom

If you want a taste of Yak & Yeti Restaurant, but don't want to pay the full price of a sit-down dining experience, this outside counter-service location offers some of the best Asian food at Walt Disney World. Served in small Chinese "take-out" boxes, you'll find smaller (and cheaper) versions of some of the items featured on the main dining floor. Some of the standout options include the Honey Chicken, Beef Lo Mein and Mandarin Chicken Salad.

5 • • • • Cosmic Ray's Starlight Cafe

Magic Kingdom

If you like to be entertained while you eat, then Cosmic Ray's Starlight Cafe is the place for you! Enjoy food from three different bays: Chicken, Burgers and Sandwiches. But remember, you can only get certain items from each Bay, so be careful which line you get in. After a stop at the toppings bar, grab a seat and be prepared to be serenaded by the contemporary musical stylings of one Sonny Eclipse, along with his Astro-Organ. This 25-minute show helps ensure that your meal is out-of-this-world.



4 • • • • Sunshine Seasons

Epcot

This classic Epcot spot received a makeover several years ago, but Sunshine Seasons still delivers a wide variety of offerings in a setting that revokes feelings of Epcot from years ago. As a kid, I loved sitting underneath the dome of The Land pavilion, and I still do today while enjoying some contemporary theme park food such as reubens, paninis, oak-grilled rotisserie chicken and mongolian beef stir fry. Plus Sunshine Seasons is the perfect spot to rest your legs before standing in line for two hours to ride Soarin'.

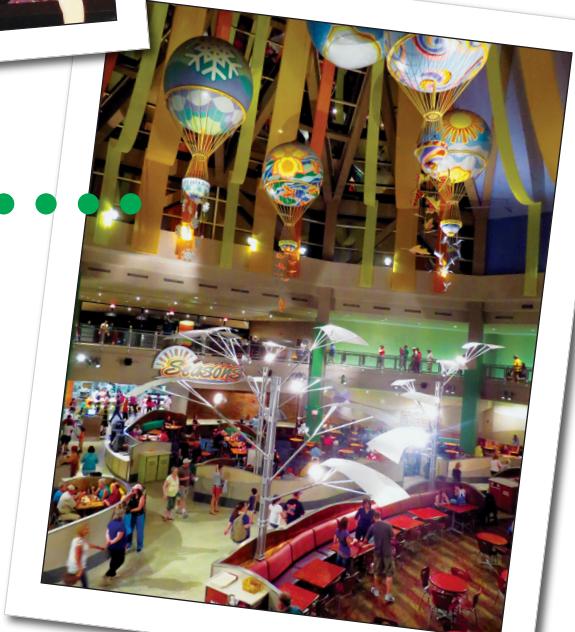


PHOTO BY ANTHONY ARMENIA

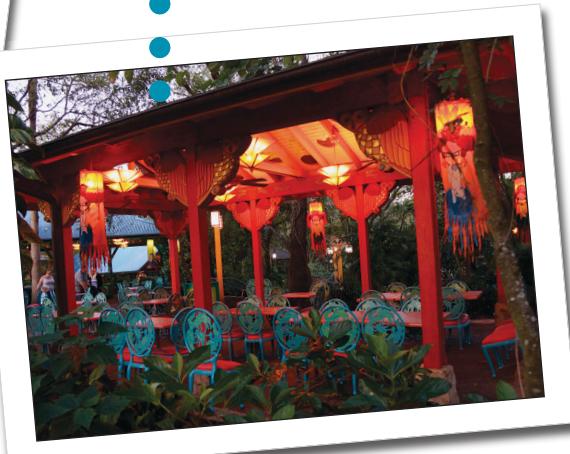
3 • • • • Pecos Bill Tall Tale Inn and Cafe

Magic Kingdom

Frontierland hosts one of the most popular dining spots in all of Walt Disney World. Hamburgers, taco salads and wraps might top the menu board, but it's the "world famous" fixin's bar that is the marquee attraction here. The smell of sautéed onions and mushrooms will pull you in, and the hot, melted cheese sauce will make you not want to leave. Pecos Bill's can get quite busy during lunch and dinner hours, so try eating here during off-peak hours for a more enjoyable experience.



2



Flame Tree Barbecue

Disney's Animal Kingdom

Flame Tree Barbecue is not only a hidden gem at Animal Kingdom, but it's another one of the best kept secrets for counter service dining at Disney World.

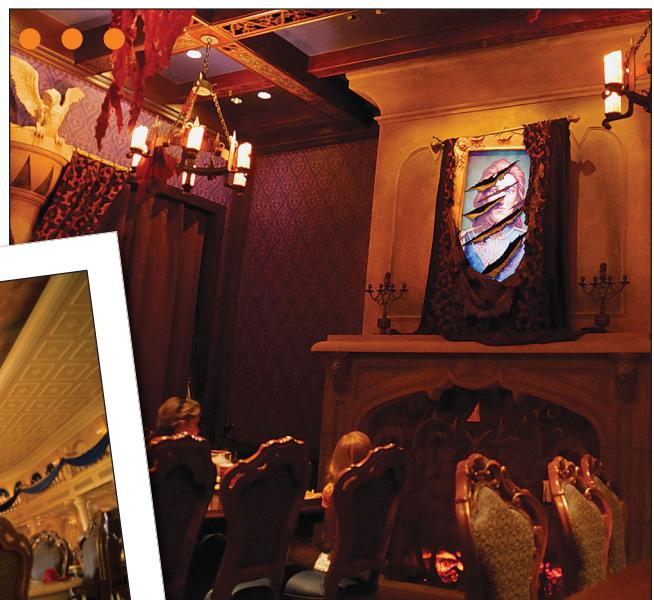
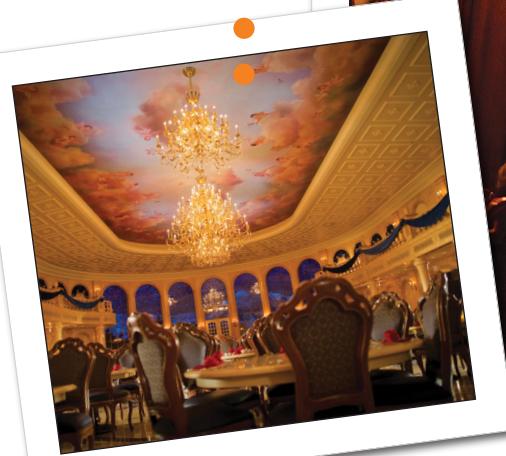
The chicken is juicy and delightful; the pulled pork sandwich would make any true Memphis BBQ fan proud; and the ribs are simply to die for. The waits here are usually minimal, but it should be pointed out that all of the seating is covered, but the walkways to each spot are uncovered, making this a tough option during storms. But, if you can score a seat near the water, you'll have a gorgeous view of Expedition Everest.

1

Be Our Guest Restaurant

Magic Kingdom

Be Our Guest has taken counter service dining to a whole new level – mainly by taking the "counter" out of the equation. You order your food at kiosks before taking a "rose" to your seat. Magically, a server will find your table and deliver such dishes as grilled steak sandwiches, braised pork and vegetable quiche. If you want a hot dog or hamburger, this is not the place for you. The setting is stunning but the wait can reach an hour just to order your food. But it's well worth it. Whether it's counter service for lunch or table service for dinner, Be Our Guest should be a must do on your next trip.



Skipper Ben is a former Walt Disney World cast member.

He worked at Jungle Cruise, Muppet*Vision 3D and as a producer for Radio Disney. He now resides in Dallas, Texas, with his wife Lisa (also a former cast member) and daughters Abigail Lily and Alayna Iris.

Do you agree with Ben or have a suggestion for a future Top 10?

Let us know at info@attractionsmagazine.com



Savor the Flavors



Drinking (and eating) Around the World at Epcot

By Julie Saunders

Out of all Orlando area theme parks, Epcot at Walt Disney World offers the most diversity in food, drink, shopping and culture. There are many ways for visitors to immerse themselves in Epcot's 11 countries – drinking in all the regional flavors. It didn't take long before an unofficial pastime was created in which folks would sample food and/or beverages from each World Showcase country. Many variations exist, but perhaps the most well known is "Drinking Around the World."

Most visitors who partake in this particular goal-oriented event tend to be well behaved. Disney is a family destination

after all and anyone entering a Disney park realizes there are children present. Besides, the words "drinking" and "responsibly" are not mutually exclusive. Although this adult option is popular, more family-friendly samplings are readily available.

No one associated with this publication or The Walt Disney Company advocates drinking to excess or operating a vehicle after imbibing. Free transportation options are provided, so there is no excuse for drinking and driving. Bus, monorail, boat or taxi – pick one, but do make use of these free services if you've been partaking in the parks. Never drink and drive!



World Showcase

World Showcase is a 1.2 mile promenade featuring the following countries (clockwise): Mexico, Norway, China, Germany, Italy, American Adventure, Japan, Morocco, France, United Kingdom and Canada. Each country offers a wide variety of foods and beverages native to their country.

Just because you can obtain 11 different adult beverages doesn't mean you should. Remember, this is a family destination, so keep things clean while having some adult fun.

Carey and Niles Larson of Alexandria, Va. enjoy capturing their World Showcase moments, explaining, "We take a picture from each country with the drink and the hat and a flag from that country." The Larsons offer this advice for other Around the Worlders, "We

think it is important to share the drinks and split it up over days. The point is not to get intoxicated and out of control. We also want to be respectful of those around us."



Mexico

Mexico is known for its tequila and La Cava Del Tequila, located inside the pavilion, is the place to go for agave. With more than 100 tequilas on the menu, selecting one or two to try could be daunting. For the indecisive, try a flight of three samples, but remember the saying, "one tequila, two tequila, three tequila, floor!"

Twelve margaritas, ranging from spicy jalapeño to smooth avocado plus Mexican wines and bottled beers are also available along with a selection of appetizers. They also serve a specialty non-alcoholic strawberry and coconut pina colada smoothie, the Pinata.

Just across the walkway, La Hacienda de San Angel serves a wide selection of margaritas, tequila flights, beer, wine plus soft drinks, coffee and tea. Food offerings range from appetizers to desserts. Try the Botana sampler, but leave room for Empanada de Manzana - a puff pastry filled with caramelized apples, topped with dulce de leche ice cream or the ever-popular churro.

Further down the walkway, an outdoor margarita stand serves frozen and on the rocks styles, with or without a floater. Ole!



Tips For Not Getting Tipsy

- Know your limit and do not exceed it. If in doubt, designate someone in your party to keep an eye on behaviors in order to keep things civil.
- Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate! All food or drink locations with running water will provide a free cup of water upon request. Take them up on this offer – often.
- Sharing is caring. Ask for an extra cup and share adult beverages to avoid over indulging.
- Never consume alcohol on an empty stomach. Snack your way around the park while sipping.
- Pace yourself. Don't feel obligated to try everything in one day. Spread the cheer over the duration of your stay.



Norway

Next is Norway, which has limited adult beverages, but a tasty selection of sweets in the Kringla Bakeri Og Kafé. Sweet pretzels are their specialty, or quaff a Carlsberg beer. In addition to a small selection of wines, you can opt for a Linie Aquavit Glacier Shot.

A cultural favorite is the School Bread (Skolebrød), which resembles a filled donut, topped with toasted coconut. Not as sweet tasting as it looks, the yeast bread balances out the custard filling and icing for a yummy treat. Another fan favorite is Rice Cream - rice pudding topped with strawberry sauce. A selection of sandwiches balances out the sweets-laden menu.



China

An easy option in China is Tsingtao beer at Lotus Blossom Cafe. Pair with egg rolls or potstickers for a solid snack. Adults with a sweet tooth could try the plum wine. On a hot day, try a smoothie or the caramelized ginger or strawberry red bean ice creams. To warm up, go for a cinnamon-apple egg roll.

Tea-totalers can enjoy exotic Ginseng Oolong or Jasmine teas, among others, available at the Joy of Tea stand, which also offers refreshing fruit tea slushies. Or try Tipsy Ducks in Love - a creamy cold tea and coffee combo blended with bourbon whiskey and chocolate. Like many other adult beverages, Tipsy Ducks in Love can be ordered as a mocktail by holding the hooch.



Germany

On to Germany and arguably the best beer in Epcot, easily accessible at an outside stand. Pair with a soft pretzel for a taste of Deutschland. Prost!

In addition to the "bier", there is a small selection of wine and schnapps offered in Germany. Beware the Jagermeister!

Head into Sommerfest to grab a bratwurst, black forest cake or apple strudel. For a really sweet tooth, head into Karamell-Küche, a Werther's candy store.



Italy

Check out Tutto Gusto Wine Cellar for a selection of Italian wines and beers, plus shareable small plates, pasta, paninis, meats and cheeses. Traditional tiramisu, cannoli and Nutella torte round out the desserts.

Consider pairing prosecco with gelato for a refreshing and sweet treat at the gelato stand. For a walk on the wild side, order the Italian Margarita – a frozen concoction of Limoncello, Grappa and Margarita mix. Mamma Mia!



An official Disney T-shirt for sale at Epcot which highlights many of the food and drinks available.



USA

Next is The American Adventure, home of Samuel Adams beer, including seasonal selections on draft at the Fife & Drum Tavern. For something cool with a kick, order frozen Red Stag Lemonade, made with Jim Beam bourbon.

The Fife and Drum is also home to jumbo turkey legs and both sweet and savory pretzels stuffed with cream or jalapeno cheeses. Salute these snacks with a glass of chardonnay, pino grigo or merlot wine, or consider the patriotic kid friendly American Dream, consisting of frozen strawberry, vanilla ice cream, and frozen blue raspberry. This is also one of the locations you can get The Doofenslurper, a new frozen fruit drink with a foam topping, served in a laboratory flask featuring the villain in Disney's Phineas and Ferb television show.

On the other side of the American Adventure is a funnel cake stand. Toppings include vanilla ice cream, seasonal fruit and chocolate. Try the pumpkin spice funnel cake for a taste of Americana.



Festival Fun

Celebrating its 16th year this fall, the Epcot International Food and Wine Festival is hugely popular. This annual event is also a prime opportunity to sample from 20 or more additional country kiosks added for the festival. There's also a concert series, wine seminars, celebrity chef demonstrations and the extravagant Party for the Senses. This year's festival will take place Sept. 27 through Nov. 10.



Japan

Made from rice, Sake is traditionally Japanese, but so are the beers. Wash down some sushi with Kirin Ichiban on draft at Katsura Grill. Sweeter palates might like the plum wine and the under 21 set (and older) will enjoy a Kaki Gori, which is a Japanese snow cone, served at Kabuki Cafe.

Healthy snacks include edamame, miso soup or Okonomi Yaki, which is a savory pancake made with Japanese vegetables. Save room for green tea ice cream for an authentic taste of Japan.

Head into the massive Mitsukoshi department store for an odd taste of Japan packaged as dried squid or crabs along with a wide variety of Japanese candies.



Morocco

Duck into the back of the Tangierine Cafe for coffees laced with liqueurs, beer, wine and frozen daiquiris, which are also available sans alcohol. Consider sharing the Mediterranean Sliders combo, served with lentils, hummus and tabouleh.

"Tangerine Café is always the first stop on my culinary trip around World Showcase," said Lisa Hooper of Charlotte, N.C. "My favorite is the combination plate with a side order of olives. I order it at least once each trip!"

They also boast a selection of adult and non-alcoholic slushies and a signature Tangerine cocktail, which can be ordered as a mocktail. Doesn't baklava with Casablanca Coffee sound exotic?



France

With their reputation for producing fine wines, France delights with regional selections at Les Vins des Chefs de France kiosk. Sip champagne and Kir Royale or try the Nuvo sparkling vodka.

Can't decide between the Grand Marnier and Grey Goose Orange slushies? Neither could Leigh Jenkins of Indian Trail, N.C., so she orders one of each and combines the flavors. "The orange is too sweet and the lemon is too tart, but putting them together makes them just right," quipped Jenkins in true Goldilocks fashion.

Saunter back to the new Les Halles Boulangerie Patisserie for a selection of soups, salads, sandwiches, and of course, pastries. In addition to coffee, tea, juice and soft drinks, a small selection of beer and wines is also available at this location.





United Kingdom

Stop by Yorkshire County Fish Shop for traditional English fish and chips. Or head into the Rose and Crown Pub to enjoy specialty drinks and pub grub. Order a Scotch Egg, which is hard-boiled egg wrapped in sausage then fried golden brown, or the English Bulldog bangers and mash.

Wash down some pub grub with a variety of specialty cocktails: Leaping Leprechaun, English Rose and Welsh Dragon. Or select from a variety of ales, lagers and Scotch whiskey, including single-malt flights. Sip a Snake Bite (cider and Harp Lager) while listening to The Hat Lady tickle the ivories.



A couple at the stand in Canada designed their own "Drinks Around the World" T-shirt to wear as they celebrated their 17th wedding anniversary at the park.

Round-Up

Michael and Whitney Landis, of Las Vegas, Nev., who attend Epcot's International Food and Wine Festival annually, said, "We enjoy spending a day or two trying all the different foods and beverages, as well as the concert series. It takes the normal Epcot experience up several notches. If you enjoy food and drink, then the festival is Heaven."

There are boundless ways to experience adult and family-friendly offerings in the spirit of exploring the various cultures represented around Epcot's world showcase through quick service food and drink. Pretzel or beer, churo or cocktail, partaking in the park should always be undertaken responsibly. Cheers!



Canada

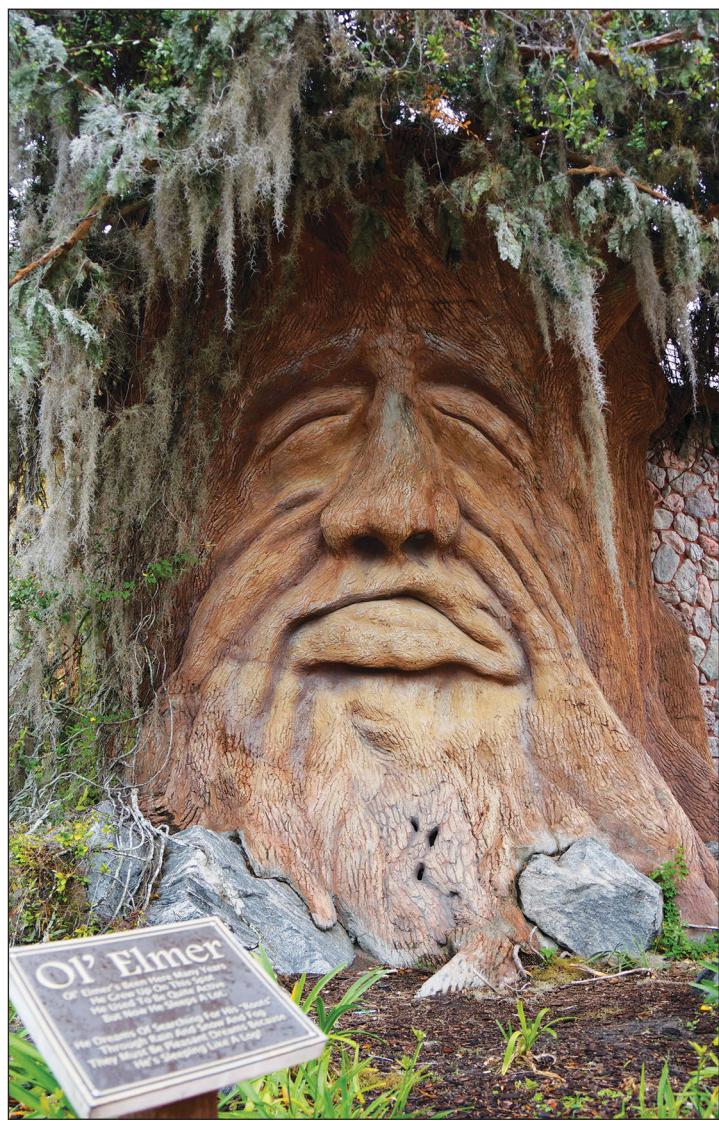
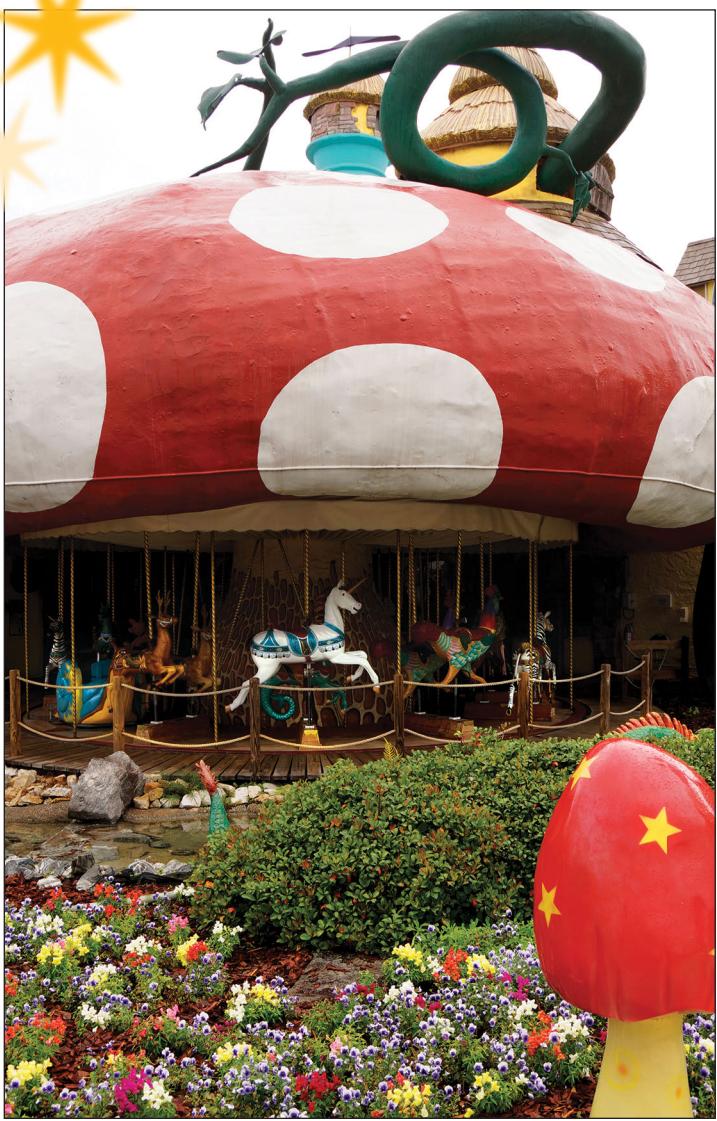
Grab some popcorn and a Moosehead draft beer at the snack cart in Canada. Or order a Torontopolitan, made with Iceberg vodka, Chambord, cranberry and orange juices. Soft drinks, Smart Water and smoothies round out the menu at this small cart.

Not actually a part of the Canada Pavilion but nearby, Refreshment Port offers a more extensive menu including Spicy Chicken and Cheddar Poppers and Crispy Fried Shrimp with Cajun tartar sauce. Beverages include Iced Cappuccino, Latte and Mocha, strawberry smoothie and frozen Bacardi Mojito.

Match the food or beverage item with the country where it can be found in Epcot:

American Adventure	Carlsburg
Canada	Mimosa
China	Yuengling
France	Caffe Freddo
Germany	Red Bean Ice Cream
Italy	Martell Cordon Bleu
Japan	Turkey Leg
Mexico	North Bay Smoothie
Morocco	Sake
Norway	Rumple Minze
Outpost	Kronenbourg 1644
United Kingdom	Sidral

United Kingdom: Martell Cordon Bleu
 Outpost: Yuengling
 Norway: Carlsburg
 Morocco: Mimosa
 Mexico: Sidral
 Japan: Sake
 Italy: Caffe Freddo
 Germany: Rumple Minze
 France: Kronenbourg 1644
 China: Red Bean Ice Cream
 Canada: North Bay Smoothie
 American Adventure: Turkey Leg
 ANSWERS:



Fun, colorful buildings and attractions can be found all around Give Kids The World Village. It's a place where terminally ill children and their families can have fun, forget about their problems and create wonderful memories.



Give Kids the World Village

offers a care-free fun for children with life-threatening illnesses

By Kimberly Button



The Orlando area is known for being one of the most magical destinations on Earth. Yet, hidden away in Kissimmee, there is a place of more magic and pure happiness than the theme parks could ever hope to recreate. Everyone is welcome to come visit this storybook fantasy land known as Give Kids the World, but be prepared. Your life might never be the same again.

Give Kids the World Village (GKTW) is a 70-acre, nonprofit resort for children ages 3 to 18 with life-threatening illnesses, and their families. When a child anywhere in the world makes a wish to enjoy a Central Florida vacation through one of more than 250 wish-granting organizations, they will almost always arrive at Give Kids The World. Then the magic begins.

Families enjoy a cost-free, week-long vacation. Everything from transportation to accommodations to theme park tickets and meals, are all provided by a vast network of corporate sponsors and volunteers who donate everything that it takes to bring a smile to the families, sometimes for the last time they will

ever take a family vacation together.

It's a place where ice cream is served for breakfast, where there are presents on your pillow every night and characters tuck you in for bedtime. It is a dream come true for many children, which is why GKTW works so tirelessly to make it possible for kids who need a reprieve from their often difficult situations at home.

"We still hold true to Henri's philosophy of never saying 'no' to a wish," said Colette Krahenbuhl, manager of public relations at GKTW.

Colette is referring to Henri Landwirth, the man with a vision to bring laughter to children facing incredible odds. Henri's own story is also one of facing unimaginable challenges. At the age of 13, Belgium-born Henri was separated from his family and sent to Nazi death and labor camps for five years, including Auschwitz and Mauthausen. At the age of 18 at the end of World War II, Henri and his twin sister, Margot, had miraculously survived, but their parents had been killed.

Working his way to America, and then serving in the Army, Henri used his GI benefits to learn hotel management. He soon began managing hotels in Florida, and would often provide accommodations for children whose wish was to visit Orlando's theme parks. In 1986, though, Henri received a wish request from a little girl named Amy. While Henri was able to provide accommodations, the other aspects of arranging the trip took too long, and Amy passed away from leukemia before her wish could be granted.

Saddened by the fact that Amy was never able to receive her wish, Henri began working with the area hospitality industry to ensure that wishes could be fulfilled quickly. Even today, a child's wish can be accommodated in 48 hours if needed. By 1989, Henri had opened Give Kids the World Village.

The Village is not just a place to stay. It is a destination unto itself. There are 140 villas where families stay for the week, with a colorful sign in the front yard welcoming them "home" by name. Small kitchen

facilities are located in each villa, but they really aren't necessary. All meals are provided by GKTW.

In the Gingerbread House Restaurant, breakfast and dinner are served up under the watchful eye of 2,000 dolls and plush toys decorating the rafters, left by families who have stayed at GKTW and wanted to leave a token of their appreciation. Katie's Kitchen serves up meals for lunch and dinner, which can even be delivered directly to a family's villa.

While the wholesome meals are nice, perhaps the most anticipated dining is the chance to enjoy ice cream early in the morning. "We encourage everyone to have ice cream for breakfast at least one day while they are here," Colette said. The Ice Cream Palace opens at 7:30 a.m. and is staffed all day, allowing kids to indulge in an experience they likely won't have at home.

During the day, GKTW is generally quiet, as families are enjoying time in the theme parks and other area attractions. The morning and evening are non-stop with activities,



though, and families might find it hard to find time to enjoy everything that is available to them in the Village.

The Castle of Miracles houses an enchanted forest and is home to many of the magical experiences at GKTW, including a tree that bestows pillows for the children and the Star Fairy, as well as an Enchanted Carousel.

Matthew's Boundless Play ground is an awe-inspiring life-sized version of the popular

Candy Land game, the largest in the world. Marc's Dino Putt is a seven hole miniature golf course designed by Universal Orlando. Twinkle Hope's La Ti Da Royal Spa offers manicures, makeup and temporary tattoos.

That's just the beginning, though. There is also the Amberville Train Station, with a model railroad and train memorabilia, train rides, remote controlled boats and more high-tech activities for the older kids who stay at GKTW, such as a pool table, arcade, and console video games. The Happy Harbor Fishing Pond allows children to catch their own fish. Keaton's Korral even offers horseback riding.

Just like any major resort in Orlando, the Give Kids the World Village also has a fun pool area, known as the Park of Dreams, with an enormous wheelchair accessible pool, a water play area, and an 80-foot pirates ship known as the Serendipity, whose sail can be hoisted and acts as a movie screen during pool parties.



The Loewen family volunteers at GKTW to honor their son, Noah.



Mayor Clayton welcomes each family home by name to the brightly colored two-bedroom villas that they will enjoy for a week.



An extensive entertainment schedule gives kids a chance to enjoy moments they might have missed due to hospital stays and treatments. Thursday nights bring a Winter Wonderland to the Village, complete with a visit by Santa, falling snow, carriage rides and even a parade.

Halloween is celebrated once a week as well, complete with costume contests, trick-or-treating, pumpkin decorating

and a haunted walkway. Every night of the week has a special entertainment theme, including a pirates and princess party complete with swords and tiaras; a pool party; GKTW's version of "American Idol", known as Village Idol; the world's largest Candy Land party; and Mayor Clayton's Birthday Party, a party for the beloved rabbit character created by Disney for Give Kids the World.



A young man poses with some of the many characters at GKTW Village during the annual Gingerbread Run.



Creating magical memories at every turn requires a great deal of people. Thankfully, GKTW has an army of thousands to make the children's dreams come true.

"Over the course of the last 27 years, we have had more than 50,000 volunteers who have contributed their time, talent and art," said Colette. In fact, more than two million volunteer hours have been served at GKTW, likely one of only a handful of nonprofit organizations in the country that has achieved the honor.

Give Kids the World's volunteers are literally the backbone of the Village. Every week, more than 1,200 volunteer shifts need to be filled, each for two to three hours at a time. Volunteers come from all walks of life, from all over the world. Colette estimates that only half of the volunteer force are local. Many "Angels," as they are known at



Kids try to get the water in the bucket during one of the games played during the annual Gingerbread Run 5K to raise money for GKTW.

GKTW, volunteer during their vacation or while in Orlando for a convention.

Barry Coutts first started volunteering nine years ago

when he left Michigan each winter to spend time in Florida. The snowbird, who has played Santa Claus and Mayor Clayton, among his many volunteer

duties, has now permanently relocated to Kissimmee, and is thrilled with the ability to volunteer more frequently at GKTW.



Marc's Dino Putt was built to honor a wish child whose dream was to never be forgotten.



A large indoor miniature railroad, staffed by dedicated volunteers, fascinates both kids and adults alike.



At Twinkle Hope's La Ti Da Spa, children are pampered with sparkly nail polish or temporary tattoos.

"I get more than I give," Barry said. "The first time I played Mayor Clayton, there was a little boy who hadn't smiled in years. When he saw Mayor Clayton, he smiled and grandma caught it and the parents caught it. It's just the satisfaction of that happening. So when I come here, I just have fun."

Beverly Leonard, who has been volunteering five years, agrees. "Once you get hooked, there's no going back," said the former New Jersey teacher who now lives in Kissimmee. "I love making the kids smile. I volunteer three days a week. I'd do more, but then I wouldn't get any housework done!" she said with a laugh.

"I think if you were to ask volunteers why they choose GKTW, it is one of the few volunteer activities where you can directly see the results of your efforts," Colette said. "You volunteer and you can put a smile on a child's face and you can see that."

Several volunteers come back to GKTW because the organization has personally touched their lives, often relocating to Central Florida just to be near the Village.

Brad Loewen and his family had a wonderful experience staying at Give Kids the World in February 2009. His son, Noah, was born with a rare genetic condition in 2005 and

after spending much of his life in the hospital, was granted a wish through the Children's Wish Foundation of Manitoba, Canada to come to GKTW.

"It was an incredible experience to be in a place where all of the other families and children made us feel like we were not alone in our life journey with Noah," Brad said. "Give Kids the World provided special undivided attention, care and love for our family that we weren't expecting."

The Loewen family spent an amazing week meeting with characters, having fun in the theme parks, and posing for lots of family photos. In July of the same year, Noah passed away. The family decided to honor Noah's memory by volunteering at GKTW.

"We came from Winnipeg to Florida two or three times a year to help. This was rewarding, but we felt we could do better. Last August, our family made the official move permanently to be able to return the attention, care and love to other wish families at GKTW that we experienced firsthand back in 2009," Brad said.

More than 120,000 families from all 50 states and 70 countries have had wishes granted by GKTW since 1986, but the demand is ever increasing, and Give Kids the World Village must expand in order to host more wish families in



The theater is decorated for Christmas, in February. The major holidays are celebrated each week at GKTW.

the future. In 2012, nearly 400 families had to stay in area hotels. GKTW wants to have accommodations available so that every family who would like to stay at the Village is able to do so.

Corporate sponsors and donations make it entirely possible for GKTW to operate and to keep expanding. Yet families will never see one advertising logo or sponsorship plaque anywhere in the Village.

"That was part of Henri's philosophy from the beginning that he wanted to create a place for children and he wanted companies to do it for the right reason, not for their own reason," Colette said.

There are hundreds of companies that donate incredible amounts of time and money to GKTW, so the organization wanted a place to thank them. In 2011, the Gallery of Hope opened. If families choose to enter, they will see a scrolling list of the businesses that make daily operations at Give Kids

the World possible. Such as Boston Market, who has been raising funds since 2008 to build and operate Katie's Kitchen, and even supplies two full time staff to cook the food. Perkins fund raises all year to supply the food in the Gingerbread House Restaurant. IHG, the Inter Continental Hotels Group, raised money to build four more villas. Of course there are the area theme parks who generously donate tickets and toys and send their staff and characters to spread joy at GKTW.

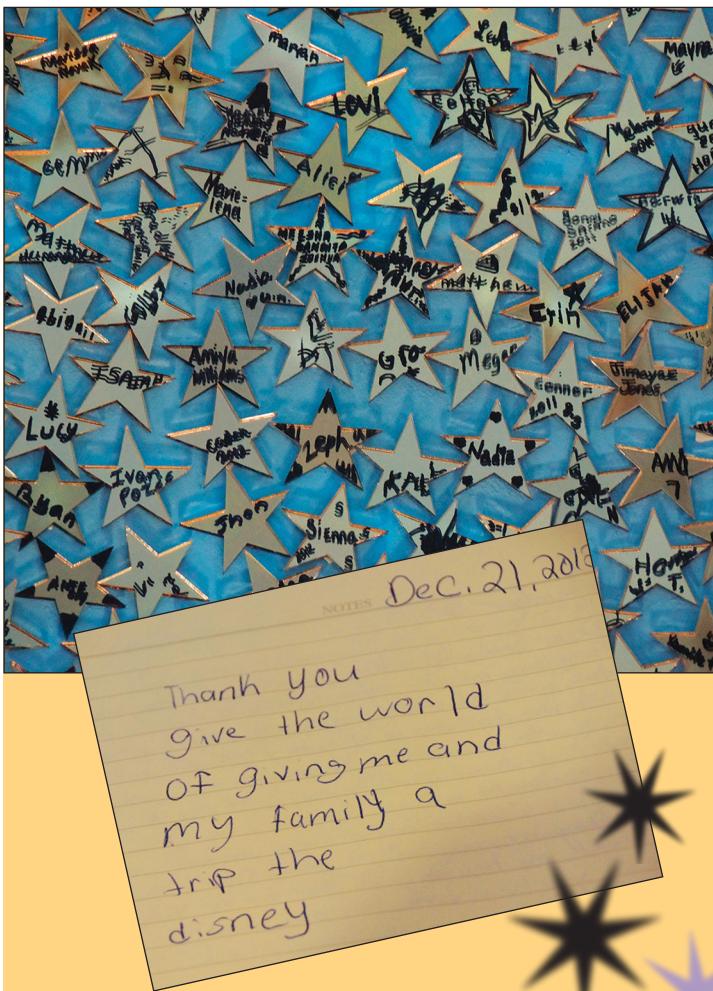
It just takes one glance inside the Castle of Miracles to see a ceiling filled with gold stars, each with a name written on it, to know how many lives have been touched by GKTW. Each wish child sees their own star on the ceiling before they leave, knowing that they will always be remembered at Give Kids the World. Little do they realize, though, how much they have impacted other people's lives too.



Volunteer shifts at GKTW include dishing up ice cream for the families.



The Ice Cream Palace encourages kids of all ages to enjoy a scoop (or three) of ice cream for breakfast. Why not?



How to Help

Want to help support the mission of Give Kids the World? Here's what you can do:

Volunteer

Volunteers are always needed. You can volunteer for just one three hour shift during your time in Orlando. Children must be at least 12 years old to help. Visit qktw.org/volunteer to find out how.

Donate

You can find a list of needed supplies at gktw.org/help/wishlist.php - which ranges from cotton balls and glue, to landscaping supplies.

Attend Official Events

Many fundraising events are held each year, including an Ice Cream for Breakfast event, a Gingerbread Run and more. The next one will be the Black and White Silver Anniversary Gala on June 1, 2013 at The Peabody Orlando. Ticket information is at qktw.org/gala

Attend Fundraisers

In addition to GKTW official events, many area business and groups hold events in benefit of GKTW all year-long. Stay tuned for more information on an Orlando Attractions Magazine event this September at Splitsville at Downtown Disney where you can meet the staff of "Orlando Attractions Magazine", "Orlando Attractions Magazine - The Show" and some of your other favorite theme park podcasters and bloggers.

Orlando Magic

For magic in the traditional sense, check out these illusionist shows

By Greg Dow

The word magic is synonymous with Orlando – from the sort of magical experiences you can have at the theme parks, to the Orlando Magic basketball team – but there's also the traditional form of magic. Inside the magical vacation kingdom are nightly illusion experiences for every group and budget. So whether you are looking for close-up entertainment or a full-blown theater experience, Orlando is the place to find magic, both inside and outside the kingdom.

Here's our roundup, in no particular order:

★ Disney's Boardwalk

Nightly – Free

Every night offers a rotating cast of entertainers from 7 to 10 p.m. They create a street style experience that is free for anyone wandering the Boardwalk. Magician Brian Staron rides up on a custom tricycle, draws a crowd and presents four different 30-minute shows throughout the night. "Since it is a free venue, the Boardwalk has become a favorite spot for locals to come and enjoy a night of fun and entertainment," according to Brian. The magic shows rotate around Brian, Nick Paul, Kardenni and Nick Toland, each presenting completely different styles of family friendly magic. The Boardwalk also features jugglers, mimes and other street entertainment. And did we mention it's all free?

★ Disney's Hollywood Studios

Daily - Included with park admission

The studios have a wide selection of "Citizens" presenting comedy and interactions throughout your visit. One is Jack Diamond – a talent agent from New York who is known for less glamorous pursuits like the shell game and magic tricks. Jack is currently in his 25th year with Disney. He can be found every day except Sundays and Mondays. The shows usually take place on Hollywood and Sunset Boulevard at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Look for his velvet table and plant yourself for a treat-or-scam!

★ WonderWorks

Nightly - \$24.99

While taking a trip down International Drive, you'll come upon the upside-down building called WonderWorks. Hidden in the back of this fun science playground is a theater where you'll find The Outta Control Magic Comedy Dinner Show. Included with your ticket is all-you-can-eat pizza, popcorn, salad, beer and soda. The 90-minute show features Magician Tony Brent and features illusions, impersonations and comedy. Tony said it attracts people from all over the world. "One show I had people from Scotland, Iran, Japan, Africa and Ohio. It doesn't get much more diverse than that."

★ Wizardz

Monday Nights - \$10

If you will be in town on a Monday night, Wizardz in Kissimmee is a great inexpensive way to spend the evening. The show features a different set of magicians each week. This ranges from local talent to performers that have been on "Americas Got Talent" and headliners from Las Vegas. Presented in an intimate theater in the Seralago Inn and Suites, it's like a piece of the Magic Castle in Hollywood brought to Orlando.

Brian Staron rides up on his custom tricycle full of magic and mirth at Disney's Boardwalk.



SUBMITTED PHOTO



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jack Diamond pulls an enjoyable scam on the streets of Disney's Hollywood Studios.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



Kyle Knight and Mistie present a classic rope escape on Disney Cruise Lines.



The Shocker causes magical mayhem at Wizardz Magic Theater.

20 Penny Circus let the crowd walk all over them during last year's Halloween Horror Nights at Universal Studios.

Crazy comedy is mixed with magic at WonderWorks.

★ Hard Rock Hotel – The Kitchen

Friday Nights – Free for restaurant patrons

Chances are you've seen Criss Angel or David Blane on TV and were impressed that the magic happened right in the hands of the audience. This can happen for you at Universal's Hard Rock Hotel. At The Kitchen restaurant every Friday night, Magicians Doug Otto and Mark Fitzgerald present close up magic for diners. From 6 to 10 p.m. they create illusions right at the tables creating a personal, intimate show for the guests.



★ Sleuth Dinner Theater

Thursdays at 10:30 p.m. - \$10

Every Thursday night at the Sleuth's Dinner Theater on International Drive is 'A Little Night Magic' with Magician V. The show is presented in an intimate parlor style theater. V presents a mixture of illusion, mentalism and sleight of hand to bring a different experience every week. It also features special guests and surprises from week to week. The show is family friendly, but it is encouraged for 10 years old and up.

★ Universal Orlando

Daily - Included with park admission

If learning the magic is more your speed, Orlando has two tourist destinations for budding prestidigitators. Inside both Universal Studios and Islands of Adventure sits Theatre Magic. The skilled demonstrators present multiple demonstrations throughout the day. They perform a few amazing effects during each short show that are available for purchase right in the store. So step in and take a break from the Orlando heat and leave with some fun tricks to amaze your friends at home.

★ Disney Cruise Line

Various nights - Included with cruise

If you're going to be on the Disney Dream, then you are in for a magic treat. Illusionists Kyle Knight and Mistie present their full theater show in the Walt Disney Theater and a special late night show in the Evolution lounge as part of the ship's entertainment options.

★ Halloween Horror Nights

Nightly - Included with event admission

This year's entertainment at Universal Orlando hasn't been announced, but past years have featured many high profile magicians like The Amazing Jonathan, Brian Brushwood and Kevin James. This past year featured Orlando's own 20 Penny Circus. Whomever is chosen each year, expect a little gross out mixed in with the illusions.

★ Wine and Wonder

First and third Saturday each month - Free

Every other Saturday evening, a more upscale experience is presented at the Put A Cork In It wine bar near Universal Orlando. Mark Toland, who also performs on Disney's Boardwalk, presents a 60 minute show of magic and mind reading. What makes this show a little different from other offerings is that it is geared toward adults. Special guest comedians and magicians warm up the crowd.

★ Orange Lake Resort

Wednesdays at 7:30 – \$19.95

On Wednesday nights, Magician Erich Olsen presents his full stand up comedy/magic show for all ages. Erick has been seen on "America's Got Talent" performing his interactive, high-energy show. If that's not enough to entice you, there's also an all-you-can-eat buffet included in the show admission.

Greg Dow is a professional magician from Las Vegas that specializes in weddings and private events, and is also a huge theme park fan. He also performs at Wizardz as his alter ego – The Shocker! Find him at yourmagicwedding.com or shockermagic.com.

Resort Report





Jackie Roseboom



CARIBE ROYALE

This hotel/resort offers plenty of room and many dining choices without gouging its guests

T

he large tropical pink building is impossible to miss when driving down World Center Drive (minutes to all the theme parks). The Caribe Royale is a jewel of a hotel that has people flocking to it year after year.

One of the biggest things guests love is that there is no resort fee added to your bill and they offer free parking. They do have a charge for Internet access, but that's a bargain compared to other hotels' undisclosed fees.

Caribe Royale is very well known to the convention world. It offers 150,000 feet of flexible meeting and event spaces. There are also two business centers. But even though the hotel is mostly known for catering to the convention crowd, it's well received by families too. The large rooms and seating areas in this all-suite hotel, as well as the larger villas, offer a great value for vacationing families.

The main hotel towers contain two types of rooms. The only difference is the size. You first enter into a nice living room with a sofa that pulls out into a bed, two chairs, a coffee table and a desk. The television console in the living room not only holds a large flat-screen TV, but also a mini refrigerator and coffee maker. When you leave that room and walk through the doorway to the bedroom, you pass a sink in the hall-

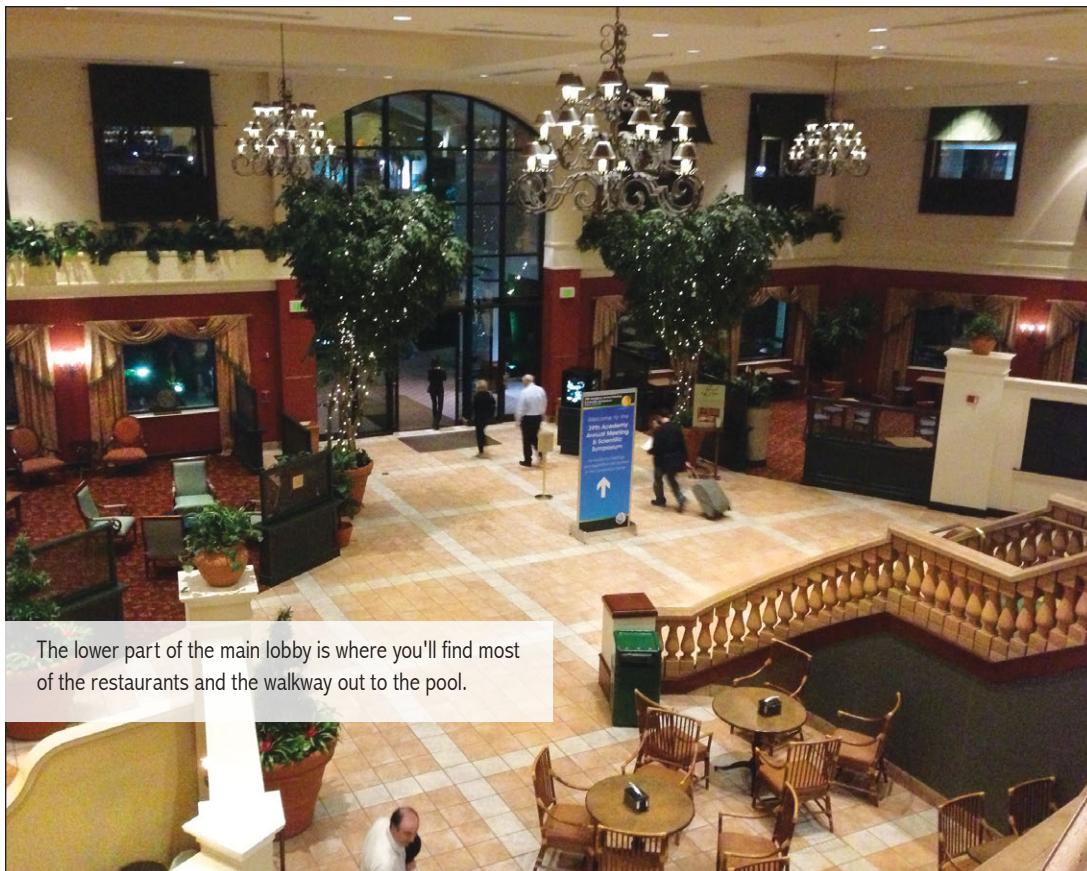


The Caribe Royale offers plenty of convention and meeting space, which is connected to the hotel via a covered walkway.

Resort Report



The waterfall is not only refreshing, but gives you a bit of a massage when you swim under it.



The lower part of the main lobby is where you'll find most of the restaurants and the walkway out to the pool.

way across from the bathroom. This allows one person to finish getting ready while another showers in the large bathroom (or bathes in the jet-tub/shower combo).

The bedroom has a large dresser with another flat-screen television across from a comfy bed (or beds) loaded with pillows. There's also a nice sitting area in front of a large window. It's a great place to relax and read a magazine.

The Villas of the Caribe Royale are away from the main towers and have a separate gated entrance. They also have their own pool. Each villa has two bedrooms, two baths and a full kitchen. These book up fast, so plan ahead if you need the extra space.

There are many nice spots to grab a quick snack and relax all around the hotel. Whether you're in the mood for a quick meal or fine dining, you don't have to leave the property:

- Open just for breakfast, Java's Coffee Cafe is located in the lobby of Tower Two and sells various pastries and cereals as well as juices, coffee and teas. Its outside sitting area is a nice place to watch the hotel's scarlett macaw, Sierra. She is quite a character.
- The breakfast buffet is a very popular option at The Tropical, which also serves lunch and dinner. They also offer very popular holiday buffets, so reservations are a must.
- Cafe Largo is the best place to pick up a meal or snack to go. They have breakfast offerings in the morning, lunch in the afternoon and dinner entrées in the evening. You can get everything from a bag to

Caribe Royale



Each stateroom has both a living room and a bedroom. The suites have the same layout, but are a bit larger.

chips to a full meal. They also offer a great salad bar. The dessert selections look decadent as well.

- Calypso's pool-side bar is complete with all the usual offerings and has a nice selection of tropical drinks.
- Last but certainly not least, The Venetian Room is an award winning upscale dinner restaurant that has both hotel guests and locals flocking to it. Each meal comes with an impressive selection of breads and butter toppings. The chef sends out a starter, or Amus Bouchée, which consists of a cone full of a tasty creation of the chef's choosing. Ours was a sweet flavored cream cheese with berries. Our escargot was served with a puff pastry covering

and a toasted pecan cabernet wine reduction sauce, topped with exotic mushrooms. It was as scrumptious as it sounds. The popular Dover Sole is an excellent choice for the main course. They have a nice dessert menu, but if you would like the Grand Marnier Soufflé, order it well in advance. It takes about 40 minutes to prepare. What a mouthwatering way to end your meal.

After all that food, you may want to find the fitness room. Caribe Royale's is amazing. The two-story fitness building features huge windows and the workout machines are abundant. For even more exercise, they have tennis and basketball courts. Kids can enjoy one of two arcades.

Location: 8101 World Center Drive, Orlando, Fla. 32821

Prices: Suites: \$99 to \$219; Villas: \$224 to \$394

Phone: 800-823-8300

Online: thecaribehotelsorlando.com



Cafe Largo offers many hot foods to go.

You can refresh yourself in Caribe Royale's main pool. It has an inviting waterfall and a fun curvy slide. Hot tubs are situated around the main pool. One is in a little private alcove and the other is out in the open. The private one seemed to be the favorite during our stay. There's a children's playground and pool area available too. If you're looking for peace and quiet, you might want to reserve one of the private cabanas. They are thoughtfully situated on the complete opposite side of the pool from the playground.

The Island Spa is a small boutique spa but it surprisingly did not feel cramped. There are only two treatment tables but

the massages are a must do if you can fit one in during your stay. The hotel is thinking of expanding the spa in the future but no definite plans have been made.

The Caribe Royale is a family owned hotel which offers many personal touches. (They also own the smaller Buena Vista Suites hotel next door.) Here's a little helpful hint: find them on Facebook and let them know when you are coming for a stay.

With the many different dining options and large suite rooms, Caribe Royale offers families and convention attendees the ability to customize their vacation to their budget and needs.



Cafe Largo offers quick snacks and full meals to go, plus beer and wine.



A confetti shower marks the opening of Splitsville as Downtown Disney's newest and most imaginative attraction, for bowing, dining - and more.



Come for the dining, stay for the bowling

Splitsville Offers Family Fun and More at Downtown Disney

When you hear the term "bowling alley food" you probably think of steamed hot dogs on squishy buns and nachos with bright orange squeeze cheese. But not at Splitsville Luxury Lanes, Downtown Disney's newest dining and entertainment experience. In fact, as owners Mark Gibson and Guy Revelle insist, their food is the biggest draw — the entrée, if you will, with bowling a mere side dish.

"The guest's first word should be 'wow', and the last thing we want them to be talking about when they leave is the bowling," said Mark. "We hope they talk about the experience, the food, then say, 'Oh, by the way, we bowled'. We want the guest to come in, have a meal, go to the bar, bowl, listen to some live music or watch a sporting event on TV, and if they leave mentioning anything other than bowling, we've won that customer."

"Our outdoor bar has live music every day," Guy adds. "When guests are out there they eat, they drink, they listen to the music, and then they think, 'Oh, there's a bowling alley in there!'"

That 'experiential' philosophy is working. There are no

leagues here, no long rows of alleys, no uncomfortable benches. The focus is on creating family memories, with cozy clusters of tufted leather booths situated around a series of small tables, each facing their own lane, with just a few other lanes nearby. Here, bowling is not a sport, it's a game. It's upscale, it's nostalgic, it's retro, and it's pulling 'em in, in surprising numbers, partly for the novelty of having Steak Chimichurri, Mahi Mahi with Voodoo Shrimp, or Three Pepper Calamari in the kind of setting where your grandpa would have been thrilled to have found a decent burger.

Dwayne McQuillen, assistant general manager of culinary operations and affectionately known as 'the food dude', was happy to return to Orlando after a term as the general manager at the Miami Splitsville. When Guy and Mark were assembling their 'A-Team', they brought him to the Downtown Disney location and from that time onward they didn't have to think about the kitchen. They knew Dwayne had it covered.

"When applying Disney's volume to your standard procedure, it's a challenge," said Dwayne. "The unique challenge here is timing, because

there is a set amount of time on the lanes. You can't order a meal on your last frame. People can dine at their lane, or dine before bowling, so we've figured it out over the years and apply it on a grand scale. People told me how busy Disney is, but until you see it every day you can't really imagine."

Guy added, "Guests don't expect much from a bowling alley kitchen and that makes it even easier to wow the cus-

tomers. The quality of our sushi is top notch, and we don't just serve pizza, we serve brick oven pizza. We exceed what people expect when they come in."

Fresh isn't something usually associated with bowling alleys, either in the food or the atmosphere, but Splitsville rolls a strike here too, with pulled pork and turkey roasted in-house, and fresh-made salad dressings and pizza dough. The two-storied din-



PHOTO BY SIMON VENESS

Splitsville Co-Owners Guy Revelle, left, Mark Gibson, right, and Assistant General Manager Dwayne McQuillen have lined up a real dining treat.



Upstairs at Splitsville, the ambience is a bit more grown-up, with darker lighting, live DJs and a more rockin' atmosphere, although you can still sample the same menu selection, and the same level of bowling fun, with the area broken up into smaller sections.

ing and entertainment center is light, energetic and surprisingly free of the typical bowling alley bedlam or smelly-sock syndrome.

"It's hard to miss our building," Guy told us as we took the grand tour. "We added an all-new design, but maintained the feel of the old Virgin Mega Store, which was 15 or 16 years old. We wanted to knock it down, but Disney said, "We don't knock down buildings." That forced us to amp up the concept. When we get visitors in and engage them, we have a good shot at making them a repeat customer."

Mark agreed, adding, "We built this for guests, for Orlando, for Disney, but also for cast members. We do a Roll In Social on Thursday nights, just for cast members. We wanted them to feel like, "now we have a place for us."

Enter the main dining area downstairs and the setting is kitschy diner-style with sharp

black and red accents. Two bars keep thirsty guests satisfied, while the popular sushi bar provides another comfortable spot to sit and critique other bowlers' techniques.

The festive vibe downstairs finds its counterpoint upstairs, where the atmosphere is slightly more adult, with dimmer lighting and a DJ spinning discs at night. Want to dance? There's room. Want to relax with a drink or a meal? No problem. There are three additional bars, all serving the full menu. Billiards your game? They've got that too. Being a Disney location, those all-important hidden Mickeys haven't been forgotten either, with several hiding in Central Florida themed murals painted on the walls.

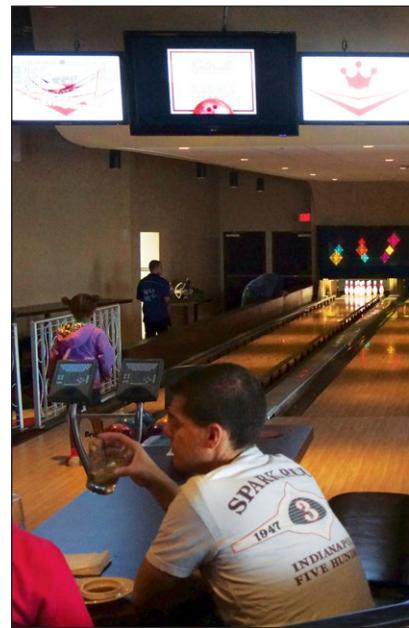
But what about the bowling?

Forget walking in, slinging your shoes on the counter, pattering stocking-footed to your lane, and waiting forever for your snacks to show up.

Instead, guests are met by a welcoming team and directed to the check-in counter where name, shoe size, and special requests such as bumpers or rolling ramps for the kiddies are taken. If there is a wait (likely on weekends) pagers alert guests their lane is ready. Bowling balls are color-coordinated to indicate weight; finger-hole size preference is noted in advance; and Mickey and Minnie even get into the act, with their likenesses etched on six or seven pound balls, just right for children.

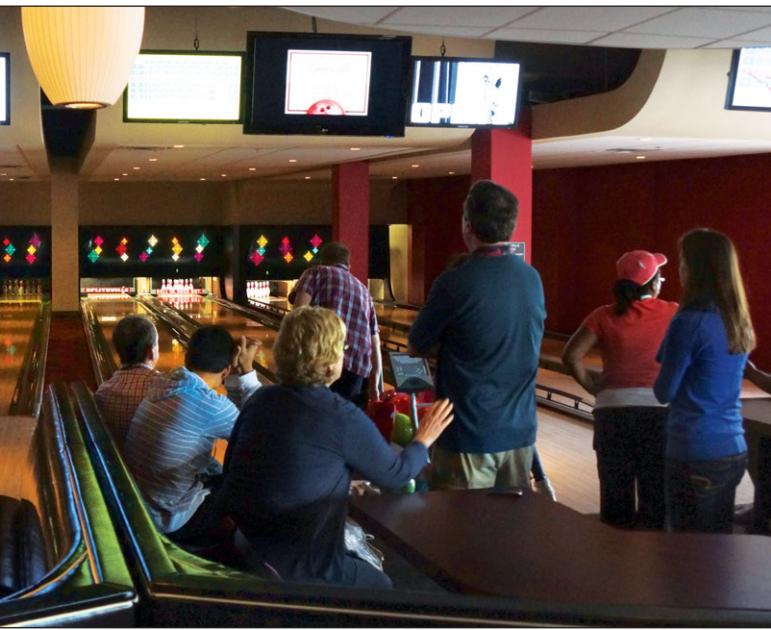
A 'Lane Concierge' escorts groups to their lane, carrying a personalized box with the right size bowling shoes in it before delivering specified ball choices, then a 'Floating Concierge' takes over, assisting with any further needs. It's all very civilized, and justifies the rather grand designation of Luxury Lanes.

During our visit we chose a sampling of appetizers, with crisp Edamame, spicy buffalo-



sauced Blazing Chicken tenders, and Cheeseburger Sliders that would have had grandpa weeping with culinary delight. Splitsville's claims that their pizza is something special proved true in the Triple Pepperoni, and we vowed to return to sample the intriguing Firehouse pizza, for more of their distinctive buffalo sauce.

Mark sums up Splitsville's success with a tantalizing final thought: "Disney is very good about delivering their product. We've been under the microscope, but we've done very well. We've added an activity to Downtown Disney based on family friendliness; it's a real social concept. There was no bowling in any Disney location in the world. We proved people on vacation would bowl, and we could use even more lanes. Something may be going into the empty space next to Splitsville, but if not, we could use more room!"



Bright and lively, with an upmarket retro feel, is the overall style.



The outdoor patio bar adds even more choice on the second floor.



Splitsville Luxury Lanes

Location: Downtown Disney West Side

Appetizers:	\$6 to \$15
Entrees:	\$12 to \$27
Desserts:	\$5 to \$9
Pizza:	\$13 to \$16
Sushi:	\$11 to \$15
Kid's Menu:	\$7

Bowling:

Monday through Thursday:

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. to close: \$15 per person;
4 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.: \$20 per person

Friday through Sunday:

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.: \$15 per person;
4 p.m. to close: \$20 per person

1 and 2 bowlers get an hour, 3 bowlers get an hour and 15 minutes,
4 and 5 bowlers get an hour and a half, and 6 to 8 bowlers get an hour
and 45 minutes.

Billiards: \$9 per hour per table

Contact: 407-938-7467

Online: disneyworld.com; splitsville.com

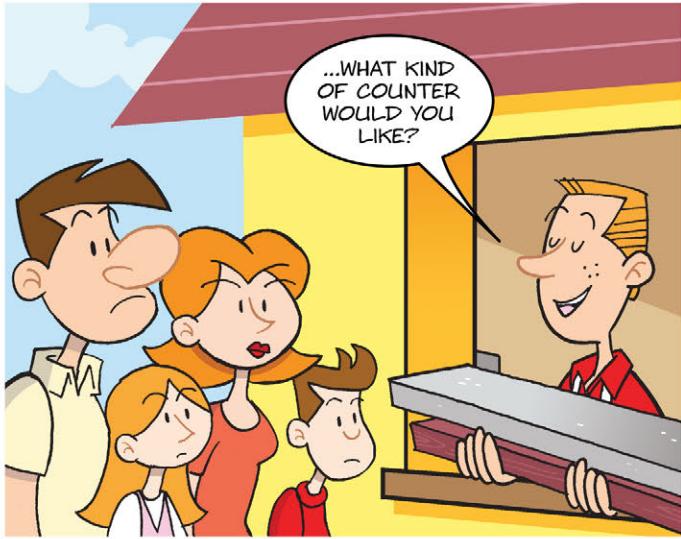
Hours: 10 a.m. to 2 a.m.

Splitsville is on the Disney Dining Plan and accepts Tables in Wonderland.



BeMUSEment PARK

by John Green
& Pat Lewis



SPOT tHe DIFFeReNcE

Meet Lady Llewellyn and Squire Tobias, two of the many members of the Royal Majesty Makers in Fantasyland at the Magic Kingdom.

You may spot this royal group of friends teaching guests how to fight dragons, or just posing for photos.

Can you find 10 differences in the bottom photo?



the corner of the building (left side) has an additional blue band. 1.0. An extra wheel was added to the baby carriage (mid-right).
on the doorway arch (top center) is gone. 7. Lady Llewellyn now has three bands of lace across her mid section. 8. Squire Tobias is wearing a gold earring. 9. The pole on purple jacket 4. The woman wearing a green skirt (mid-right) now has on a pink skirt. 5. The design on the man's white cap, left side, is missing. 6. The Rest Room sign 1. The lantern on the stone wall is missing. 2. One of Lady Llewellyn's earrings changed from a blue gem to a red gem. 3. Removed the gold piping from Squire Tobias

Disney Survey Shows the Family Benefits of Vacations

Today's American family is feeling more disconnected than ever – creating a deficit in "quality time" amongst parents and their children.

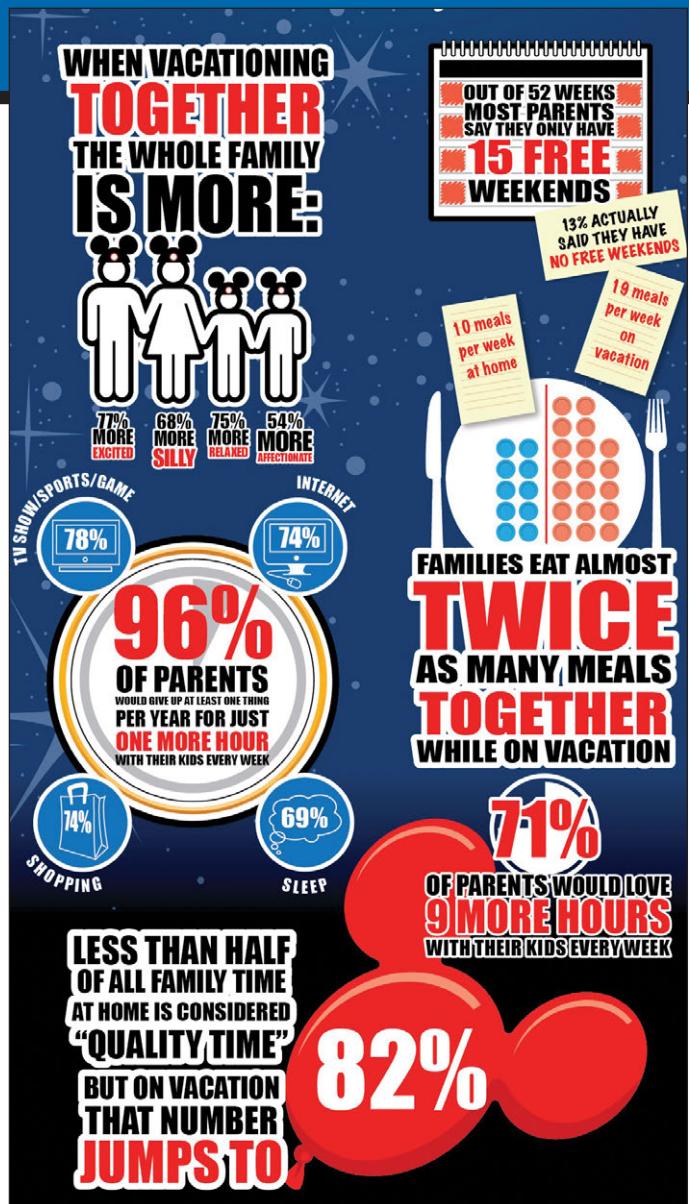
The solution? According to the Disney Time Survey, a blind study conducted by leading research firm Kelton, quality family time not only increases while on vacation but parents and children say they learn something new about one another during this time, as opposed to when at home.

More than 1,000 parents of children age 5-17 participated in the Disney Time Survey, which asked families to think about and share thoughts on quality time when at home – versus when on vacation.

- Ninety-seven percent of parents say their children have gotten to know new things about them while taking family trips, including more about their parents' childhoods (86 percent) or facts about other family members (74 percent).
- Almost one in two parents feel that out of all the time they spend with their children, only half of it, at most, could be classified as "quality time." However, while on vacation, parents report that 82 percent of time would fall in the "quality time" category.
- When asked to pick one specific location where they felt their family would have the best time on vacation, top responses in terms of type were theme park, beach, cruises and camping, respectively.
- Parents also highlighted Florida, specifically Orlando, Hawaii and California as top destinations for family vacations.

Disney asked Kelton to conduct the survey to better understand the value parents believe vacations bring to their families.

"We know vacations are important, but to have parents validate how important vacation time is to their families was insightful," said Leslie Ferraro, executive vice president of global marketing for Disney Parks. "As we've learned from families who participated in the survey, those moments of quality family time can feel fleeting in our everyday home lives. At Disney Parks, families enter a different kind of time – where the entire family can relax and be a kid – Disney Time."



MYSTERY PHOTO



WIN A PRIZE!

Tell us the exact location of this photo and you could win a prize! To enter, e-mail your answer, along with your name and mailing address, to mystery@attractionsmagazine.com.

Hint: You can find this creature elsewhere in this issue.

The deadline for entries is May 22, 2013. One answer allowed per person, per issue. Please include your name and mailing address with your answer. Everyone who submits the correct location will go into a drawing. One person, randomly selected from all the correct entries, will win a prize. We reserve the right to publish the name, city and state of those entering. One winner per household allowed per year.



LAST ISSUE'S MYSTERY PHOTO ANSWER

Congratulations to Kyler Hendershott of Ashland, Ohio, who correctly guessed last issue's Mystery Photo location. It's an animatronic of Donald Duck that appears at the end of Mickey's PhilharMagic attraction in Fantasyland at the Magic Kingdom.



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Attractions News from Outside the Orlando Area



Disneyland's Fantasy Faire Debuts

Anaheim, Calif. — As construction continues on the massive Fantasyland expansion in Florida, Disneyland gets its own, albeit smaller, expansion. The boundaries of Fantasyland will expand into the area formerly known as the Carnation Plaza Gardens near the front of Sleeping Beauty Castle. The area will include Royal Hall, the new hub of Disney Princess meet and greets. Guests can explore Rapunzel's tower from Tangled, and see her hair come to life with twinkling lights at night. One of the highlights of the new expansion will be the Royal Theater. Two shows, "Rapunzel" and "Belle" will be presented vaudeville-style by performers known as Mr. Smyth and Mr. Jones in the theater. The whole area is expected to open in mid-March.



New 'Apprentice' Show Coming Disneyland

Anaheim, Calif. — Mickey Mouse will reprise his famous Sorcerer's Apprentice role in a new stage

show as part of Disneyland's Fantasyland expansion. Apprentice Mickey discovers Sorcerer Yen Sid's magical map. Mickey's youthful attitude gets the better of him as he curiously uses the map that is capable of taking him to many magical places. On his journey he encounters many Disney characters including Pocahontas, Mulan, King Louie from The Jungle Book, Princess Tiana and others. The live production called "Mickey and the Magical Map," will span the

whole of the Fantasyland Theatre stage and will open in 2013.

Cedar Fair to Host 5th Coasting for Kids

Cedar Fair Parks — Eleven Cedar Fair parks nationwide will host the 5th Annual Coasting for Kids event to benefit Give Kids the World on June 9. (Read all about Give Kids the World on page 38.) Coasting for Kids is a marathon coaster-riding day in which riders raise money in order to participate. Perks for participants include a shirt, lunch, park admission and of course exclusive riding privileges. Often, multiple coasters are utilized during the course of the day at each park. For more information visit CoastingForKids.org.

Legoland Hotel in California to Open Early

Carlsbad, Calif. — Originally taking reservations for May 2013, Legoland Hotel in California announced that construction progressed faster than expected and they will open April 5. They also announced a national search for "Junior Concierges". Six children aged 8 to 12 were to be chosen on Feb. 28 from a pool of entrants who submitted a 50-word essay stating why they would like to serve as a junior concierge. Those chosen will stay at the hotel one weekend with their families, be sized for a uniform and undergo training. Then each winner will return another weekend to fulfill their duties. As a junior concierge, they will tell visiting children all about the fun things to do at the Legoland Resort.



Magic Mountain Poised to Take Coaster Top Spot

Valencia, Calif. — Six Flags Magic Mountain is set to have a record-breaking 2013 with the construction of Full Throttle. The coaster will have many cool features like three separate launches. One of these launches propels riders backwards through a special-effects tunnel to the high point of a dive loop they just experienced, only to rush forward again and continue their adrenaline-filled journey. Another launch will be up a "top hat" that goes up and over tracing the record-breaking 160-foot-tall loop. At 70 mph, it will be the fastest in addition to the tallest looping coaster. The coaster is on schedule for an early summer completion. Upon completion, it will round out the park's stall of 18 coasters, the most of any park, anywhere.

Rattler to Become Iron Rattler

San Antonio, Texas — When Rattler opened at Six Flags Fiesta Texas in 1992, it was the tallest and fastest wooden coaster in the world. It reached a height of 179 feet with a 166-foot first drop, reaching speeds of 73 mph. Last year, it was announced that the Rattler, as it had been known, would close. A hybrid coaster, Iron Rattler, would open in 2013. It will combine the structure of a traditional wooden coaster with steel track. Basically, steel track would be laid over the wooden structure of Rattler. The end result will be a 171-foot drop at 81 degrees, 70 mph top speed, four over-banked turns and an inverted barrel roll. Six Flags performed a similar operation on New Texas Giant at Six Flags Over Texas in 2011. Many of New Texas Giant's stats will be eclipsed by Iron Rattler.



Cedar Fair Adds New Coasters for 2013

Santa Clara, Calif. and Sandusky, Ohio — Cedar Fair Entertainment Company will add some great coasters in 2013. At California's Great America, Northern California's tallest and fastest wooden coaster is under construction. The Gold Striker will stand 108 feet tall with a 103-foot initial drop at a 50-degree angle. Riders will travel along 3,197 feet of track at speeds of more than 50 mph. The Gold Striker name is a nod to California's 49ers who came to the area in 1849 seeking their golden fortunes. Construction is progressing on Cedar Point's Gatekeeper despite the usual frigid, snowy conditions of Northern Ohio. Cedar Fair's first wing rider coaster will be the longest and longest drop wing rider in the world. By the numbers, it will travel 67 mph, drop 164 feet and travel over 4,164 feet. One feature is the "keyhole" that riders will slip through sideways.

Outlaw Run to be Inverting Wooden

Branson, Miss. — Silver Dollar City will be opening a wooden coaster this year. As of February, testing with water mannequins was already underway. The coaster was built and designed by Rocky Mountain Construction Company, who incidentally re-tracked Iron Rattler. Outlaw Run will be a wooden coaster that is especially unique in that it will invert riders three times. The chain lift coaster will have a drop of 162 feet, travel 68 mph, have a steep vertical angle of 81 degrees and travel over 2,937 feet of track.

Hades to Become Hades 360

Wisconsin Dells, Wisc. — Wisconsin Dells is best known for its water parks. In fact, there are well over a dozen indoor and outdoor water parks located



there. One of the big draws in 2013, however, may be a dry ride. Hades wooden roller coaster at Mt. Olympus Theme Park will be retro-fitted with a 360-degree inverted roll replacing the second hill. The name will be changed to Hades 360. Cincinnati-based Gravity Group designed the original coaster opened in 2005 with a wild 90-degree banked turn and a steep 65-degree hill. The Gravity Group is charged with exchanging the hill for the inversion. Along with the inversion, The Gravity Group's revolutionary train cars known as Timberliner, will be utilized.

ly dry on The Swarm wing rider coaster, park officials announced some seats on the coaster will face backwards in 2013. With a planned opening of March 14, thrill seekers will be faced with a choice – face forward or brave it backwards. Either way, riders will hurl down a 127-foot drop and around a 180-degree spin among other features. The Swarm was one of three Bolliger & Mabillard manufactured wing coasters opened last year with two more planned for 2013.

Out of the Loop Twitter Feed

For more ongoing coverage of news out of the Central Florida loop, follow me on Twitter @Attractions001. Also follow our main Twitter feed @Attractions.



Lights, Camera, Attraction!

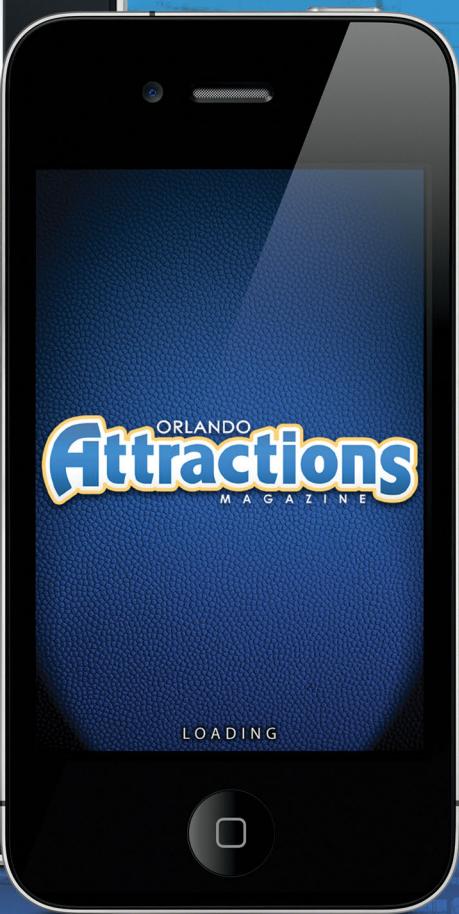


Universal CityWalk



Although this wall was repainted with a new design, it used to be that if you stood at a certain place near the entrance of the Blue Man Group show, it appeared as if the guests riding the Hollywood Rip Ride Rockit roller coaster at Universal Studios were rising out of a Blue Man's head.

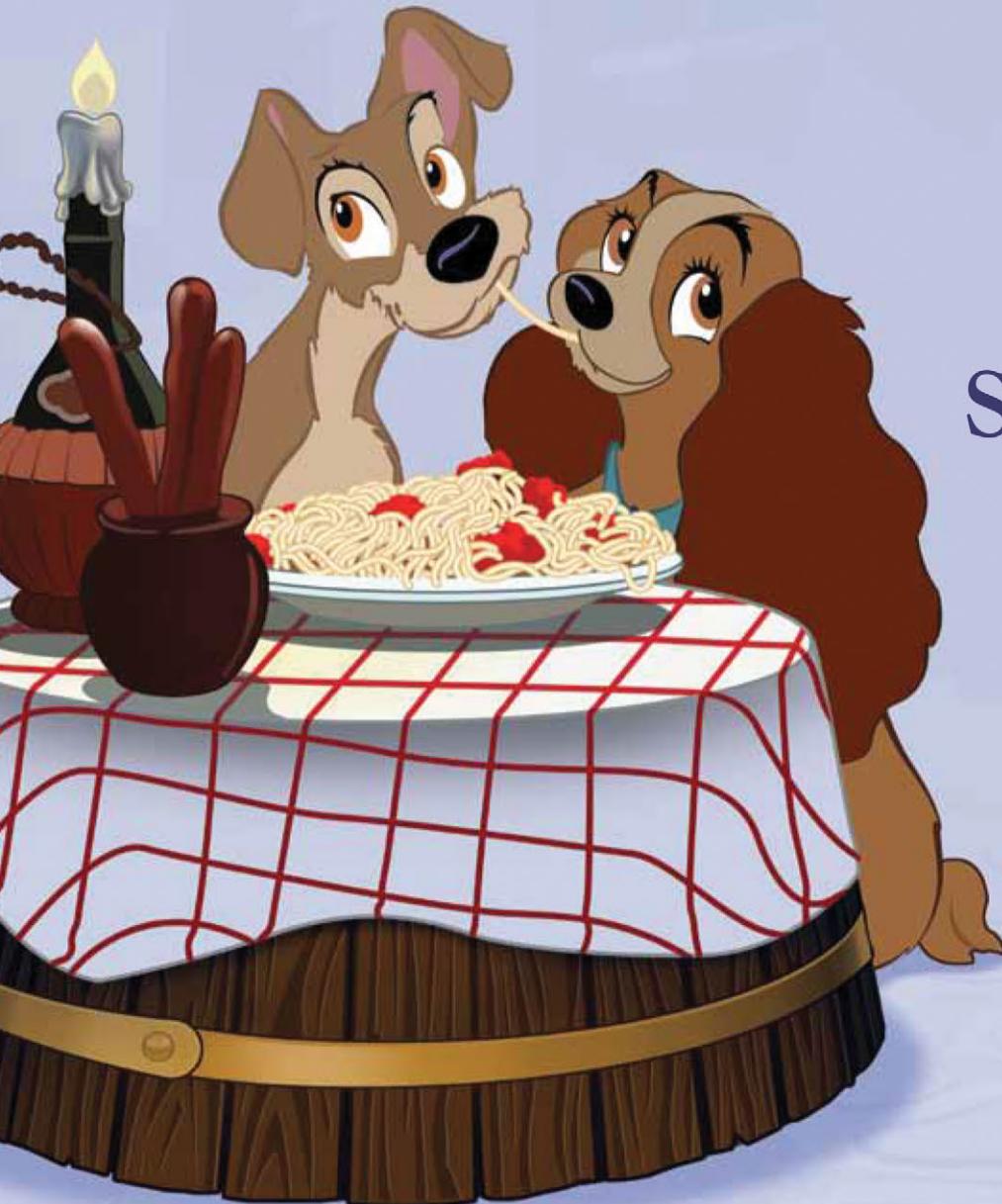
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